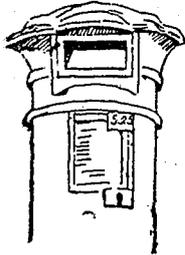


Letters to the Editor.



Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL. AN APPEAL.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—In issuing their customary appeal for financial support at this season the Committee would again draw serious attention to the urgent need for immediate and substantial help. 3,616 in-patients have been admitted, and 50,978 out-patients, casualties, maternity cases, etc., treated in 1907. 3,150 dinners to poor sick out-patients, and 1,000 surgical instruments were supplied during the same period.

It is a disquieting fact that although the expenditure and the relief afforded have increased, no improvement in income has taken place. Deficits have from time to time to be made good by the disposal of investments, but as the funded property which is available for this purpose will soon be exhausted, the ultimate result must be the closing of beds. This calamity in the near future can only be averted by prompt and generous action on the part of those who are in sympathy with the work carried on in the Hospital.

The most careful economy is exercised in all departments, and every effort made to promote efficiency. The Committee therefore rely upon the generosity of the friends and supporters of the Institution and the general public for assistance to enable them to maintain the Hospital free of debt, and to place its resources upon a less precarious basis.

An excellent method of improving the permanent income of the charity, and one which too often cannot be urged upon the benevolent, is the endowment of beds or cots in memory of deceased relatives or friends. Beds will be named after the donor, or in accordance with his wishes. Payments for this purpose may be made in one sum, by instalments, or by bequest.

Your obedient servants,

BEDFORD,

President.

HENRY LUCAS,

Treasurer and Chairman of General Committee.

WALTER BAILY,

Vice-Chairman of General Committee.

£19,000 is required each year in voluntary contributions to cover the deficit between annual expenditure and reliable income. Contributions will be gratefully received and may be forwarded to the bankers, Messrs. Coutts and Co., 440, Strand, W.C.; to the Treasurer and Chairman, Henry Lucas, Esq.; or to the Secretary, at the Hospital.

REGISTRATION FEES.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—I have read with interest what has appeared in our Journal about the fee to be charged for registration, as suggested in the Nurses' Registration Bill. As usual, the anti-registration press, with its contempt for all things nursing, except for the money it makes out of us, appear to think that we, as a class, cannot afford to pay £2 2s. for the great advantages of legal status, and the relief to our self-respect at being dissociated from unconscientious persons who do not hesitate to exploit poor sick people without preparing themselves properly for their duties. Now, if nurses as a class are so miserably paid, or come from such a pauperised stratum of society, that they cannot screw two guineas together to pay a registration fee, it is high time we were more justly paid for our hard work, or something was done to encourage women above the pauper class to enter hospitals for training. Thousands of pounds are already being spent by nurses for training in midwifery, and in special branches of their work, and the attempt to hold us up as so poor that we cannot pay a fee for registration—far lower than thousands of girls pay to learn how to cook and make clothes—is most unfair, and should be repudiated by all self-respecting nurses.

When I was a probationer—many years ago—the R.B.N.A. had not "ratted" on registration, and a sister in our hospital encouraged the nurses during their three years' term of training to save a little money every year, which she took care of, so that the registration and membership fee was ready when we got our certificates. Surely this plan might be adopted during the training years. A little saved every year would not be missed, and the two guineas would be ready when required. After the term of grace, parents or friends will know when a girl enters a hospital that five guineas will be required for the daughter's professional status fee, just as much larger sums are required for the medical student's examination and registration fee. Parents will think more highly of nursing as a profession for a daughter when she cannot be shuffled off into a hospital for nothing, as is now the case, with the result that the girl who has no talent worth cultivating is considered good enough for a nurse. People never value what they get for nothing. I sincerely hope our Nursing Council may be self-supporting, and not a rate-aided concern.

Yours truly,

AN ACTIVE REGISTRATIONIST.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

All those desirous of helping on the important movement of this Society to obtain an Act providing for the Legal Registration of Trained Nurses can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

OUR PUZZLE COMPETITION.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page xii.

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