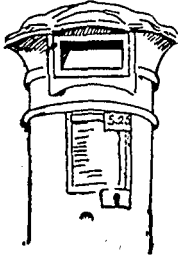


Letters to the Editor.



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.

REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

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

MADAM,—Mr. Sydney Holland is an active opponent of Registration, and his chief contention is that there is nothing in the Bill for Registration to prevent an incompetent woman from continuing to nurse as a registered nurse.

Is there any means now of such prevention?

Do nurses continue to study after they quit the training hospital?

I think not. Those that are good doubtless improve. Those that are not good as steadily deteriorate. No registration can alter that tendency.

But there is one thing it can prevent. Let me refer to a case.

A patient needed nursing. I obtained an excellent nurse from a hospital. A second nurse was wanted, sent for to the same hospital and supplied. Her ignorance was colossal. She was untrained and had not spent the requisite time in training. Had registration been in force I should have insisted upon having both nurses registered, or I would not employ them. I give you the actual details of the case, but, of course, they are not for publication.

Under the present system, if I telegraph or telephone for a nurse, I have no guarantee whatever of her being fit. Registration is at least a guarantee that she has had full training.

Yours faithfully,

A. OGIER WARD, M.D.,
Hon. Secretary of the Trained Nurses'
Annuity Fund.

73, Cheapside, E.C.

IN DEFENCE OF THE QUEEN ALEXANDRA MILITARY NURSING SERVICE IN INDIA.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In Miss C. R. Mills' paper "Dearth of Suitable European Candidates in India," she writes, "There is difficulty about their (i.e., trained nurses) getting posts in the Queen Alexandra's Indian Nursing Service. I have asked our Honorary Secretary to find out why this last is so."

It seems to me she amply gives the reasons why in the forepart of her own paper. To again quote her own words as one reason. "The European country bred girl is not very strong physically. She feels the work too heavy, and the strain too great. She does not have the physical stamina of the girls at home. In many cases their up-bringing

is to blame for this." Now this very want of physical stamina is alone a good reason why these women should not undertake 15 or 20 years' work in a Service where a constant strain is required on a woman's health and powers of endurance. If these spiritless women are admitted into a small community, it often means all the work and responsibility is thrown on the others who have energy and will power to conquer the many difficulties which working a military hospital entail, and so they have to do more than their share of the work of a "charwoman." Then, again, arises the point that often girls who pass as pure born Europeans have a terrible accent and all the manners of the Eurasian. Of course, to those who have never been in India this means nothing, but in the East a very different standpoint is taken. I maintain it is not fair on the members of the Q.A.M.N.S.I., who are received into the best society in all military stations, that this type of woman should be thrust on them, and thus tend to lower the whole Service in the eyes of many.

I can speak from experience as I was seven years Lady Superintendent of the Q.A.M.N.S.I. in the Bombay Presidency, and so had many examples to judge from. I have no doubt there are exceptions, but I cannot too strongly urge and insist that if we want the nursing profession to uphold a high standard and attract educated refined girls, we must more earnestly than ever strive to keep certain nursing appointments select. It no doubt seems hopeless with the overwhelming majority of women who take up nursing as a means to better their social position, and in this democratic age, when we are all expected to be equal.

The subject of the deterioration of the race in the East is too long to discuss, but for the present it would be as well to realise that there are many able well-trained girls in this country who can fill all the official nursing posts in the Military Nursing Service.

I am, yours faithfully,

D. M. MOORE,

Late Lady Superintendent,
Q.A.M.N.S.I. for India.
Western Circle.

Comments and Replies.

S. M. M.—Write to the Hon. Secretary, Kelling Sanatorium, Holt, Norfolk. Patients contribute what they can afford to their maintenance, the full cost of which is 30s., but those without means, and without friends able to assist, may be granted the full amount of 30s. a week if there are sufficient funds for the purpose. You might write also to the Hon. Secretary, Durham County Sanatorium, Horn Hall, Weardale, where some free-cases are taken. Only early cases are admitted at both these institutions.

OUR PUZZLE COMPETITION.

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

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