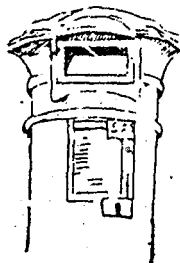


Letters to the Editor.



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.

THE RED CROSS SCHEME.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am most delighted to see that you are publishing this week an article on the above which badly requires—so it seems to me—some practical hints.

The working out of this scheme appears to me to be in the hands of well-intentioned ladies who have no knowledge of practical hospital work or organisation. Doubtless in many places there will be nurses who can help things to be efficiently organised in a workable manner, but, in small, remote country districts especially, there are many difficulties in the way.

As regards getting a doctor to give the St. John's lectures, that in many cases is almost an impossibility in remote districts. There is usually only one available practitioner for many miles of practice, and his time is more than filled without giving lectures. We are here, a remote Cumberland dale. We are making a start with a series of six lectures on Home Nursing, under the auspices of the County Council, whose syllabus is an excellent one. In these lectures the greatest interest is taken, and in the autumn I hope to arrange for a course of St. John's first aid lectures for both men and women. I think that if a workable, intelligent scheme be presented to them, the dalespeople will take up the Red Cross scheme and work it well and efficiently, for I have found out by experience how very good they (both men and women) can be in times of sickness or accident, and though untrained there is much excellent material. But it wants a trained hand at the helm, and it does not seem to me that nurses sent only when the emergency arises and the crisis is upon us, unknown to their staffs, can be very successful heads of these country districts. At the head of every section (not necessarily every unit) there should be a trained nurse who could superintend the work of four or five villages. The kind of nurse required too is one who has had experience of administration as Ward Sister or in the Assistant Matron's department of a hospital, but I am quite sure the scheme cannot be a success as long as it remains of the amateur character it at present is. Will you be printing the Red Cross scheme article as a leaflet suitable for distribution amongst my class? The thanks of all of us who are trying to work the scheme on efficient lines are due to you, and the article I hope will be widely circulated.

Faithfully yours,

MARY C. FAIR.

Eskdale Vicarage, Boôt S.O., Cumberland.

NO COMPULSION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I was present at the discussion on "State Registration" that took place last Saturday at the Horticultural Hall, S.W. I much regret that I did not, on the spot, stand up and correct two of the Hon. Sydney Holland's proverbial "inaccuracies," but perhaps you will allow me to do so through the medium of your valuable paper.

Inaccuracy No. 1.—Mr. Sydney Holland stated that the London Hospital nurses will not register should the Nurses' Registration Bill become law. I have met many nurses trained at the London Hospital, who are strongly in favour of State Registration, and who also strongly resent Mr. Sydney Holland representing (I should say misrepresenting) their views on the subject.

Inaccuracy No. 2.—I understood Mr. Sydney Holland to say that the London Hospital does not receive probationers who have had previous training in other hospitals.

I have met many nurses who have gone to the London Hospital with previous training, and one of my personal friends had been in two hospitals before she entered the London. I may add that she was made Sister of a ward before she had finished her three years' training.

I am, yours faithfully,

ANNIE E. HULME,
Superintendent.

The Nurses' Lodge,

9, 10, 11, Colosseum Terrace, N.W.

[The question under discussion of whether nurses trained at the London Hospital or any other hospital will or will not register when our Bill becomes law is immaterial. They will be at liberty *so far as the Act is concerned* to do as they choose. Registration under its provisions will not be compulsory. The officials of the London Hospital, however, realise that the moral effect of legislation will be irresistible, and that unregistered nurses cannot hope to compete with those who avail themselves of the legal status the Act will confer. Such a discussion is futile. Presumably London Hospital nurses are free agents! Anyway they will be when the Registration Act is enforced.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Foxhams.—The climate of the Canary Islands is warmer, drier, and less relaxing than that of the Azores and Madeira. Santa Cruz, the capital of Teneriffe, has a mean annual temperature of 70.15 degrees Fahr. Write to the Chief Clerk, Colonial Office, Downing Street, S.W., and inquire if the islands have now a clean bill of health.

Miss M. P., Slough.—We regret being unable to write a private letter a second time on the question of State Registration, as all information is given week by week in this Journal, which is the official organ of the State Registration Society.

OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

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