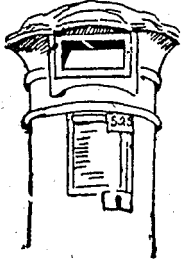


Letters to the Editor.



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.

PROVIDENT NURSING.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In connection with the question of Provident Nursing, which was raised at the interesting Conference convened by the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, and reported in your last issue, I should like to suggest that if district nursing associations are financed by the patients whom the nurses serve, it is only just that they should be to a large extent managed by them also. They would then be able to decide a question which is now very often decided for them by ladies of leisure—whether the nurse employed should be fully trained or no. In my experience the poor appreciate the value of the services of a fully-trained nurse, and would be prepared to make sacrifices in order to obtain one, while to the average wealthy philanthropist it seems quite sufficient that they should be supplied with a certified midwife with a superficial smattering of nursing. The skilled artisan appreciates the necessity of thorough training in a way that the average Society lady rarely does until the question touches her personally, then her eyes may be opened.

I should like to see Friendly Societies make arrangements for supplying visiting nurses as part of their benefits, in the same way that they supply medical attendance, the additional sum to be paid by members, for this benefit could easily be worked out on a business basis.

Yours faithfully,

INDEPENDENT.

TRAINING IN SMALL HOSPITALS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Having followed with much interest the question of State Registration, there is one thought which occurs to my mind, and that is, what will happen to the nurses who train in hospitals of less than 100 beds?

After all, it is not every girl who possesses the necessary physical ability to go through a four years' course of hard training, however much she may wish it. Consequently, if she is to be trained at all it must be in a smaller hospital, where the rush is not so great.

The majority of these hospitals train their probationers for three years; they receive no salary the first, and about £12 the second, and £15 the third year, and, as a rule, attend some first-class lectures. They have also one advantage at least, as it is their privilege to attend operations more frequently than would fall to their lot if training in a bigger school.

Our smaller hospitals do a good work, and if after three years in one of these the certificate is to count for nothing who will be found willing to do it?

M. R. W.

Reigate and Redhill Hospital,
Redhill, Surrey.

[It is probable that when State Registration of Nurses comes into force the training facilities afforded by the smaller hospitals will be utilised as never before, and that by affiliation in groups, which afford experience in the various necessary branches, they will become important factors in the scheme of nursing education, and the nurses they train be qualified for registration.—Ed.]

OUR GOOD NAME.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am thankful to see that our Registration Society is coming out against those dangerous so-called Massage Homes. It is too humiliating that decent women—such as we are—should be associated in the public mind with the most depraved persons. I have written to our local M.P. on the question, and urged him to interest others in the matter, and help by getting a Registration Bill through Parliament to provide for a distinguishing title for "registered nurses." If this sort of scandal goes on the very women the public require as nurses will not train.

Yours truly,

(Mrs.) E. C. SROOK.

Hampstead.

[We should advise all earnest Registrationists to do likewise, appeal to M.P.'s—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Parish Nurse.—We should advise you to write to the Secretary of the Clapham Maternity Hospital, Jeffrey's Road, Clapham, S.W. We think you would find that, upon payment, the case might be received there, and that a personal as well as a professional interest would be taken in the patient.

Candidate, Birmingham.—You will find the Matrons of both the large General Hospitals in Birmingham in sympathy with the movement for the higher education of Trained Nurses.

Notices.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Editor will at all times be pleased to consider articles of a suitable nature for insertion in this Journal—those on practical nursing are specially invited.

Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

Advertisements and business communications should be addressed to the Manager, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 11, Adam Street, Strand, W.C.

OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

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