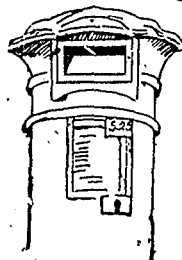


Letters to the Editor.



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 PERSONAL POINT OF VIEW.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In speaking of Registration of Nurses to several matrons I have been disappointed to find that they look at the question from a purely personal point of view, and seldom with that width of vision by which the nursing of the sick and profession of nurses should be approached. The question invariably is: "How will it effect small hospitals—or fever, or special hospitals—such as mine?" Seldom, "How will it effect nursing and patients as a whole?" This is the more personal because almost invariably these matrons are trained and certificated general nurses, who, wisely in their own case, realised the importance of general training. Of course, I know "committees" loom largely in the matter, and as nursing has been, and is, merely a domestic incident in their arrangements, and as under the voluntary hospital systems such committees concern themselves primarily with financial as apart from educational questions, and are independent of any real responsibility to the nursing profession as such, each one is fighting for its own hand without any system of co-operation, and many matrons find themselves prevented from taking any part in furthering professional interests. I was conversing with a very keen woman of business the other day who expressed the opinion that the selfish isolation of voluntary hospitals meant that sooner or later they would be placed under control and supervision of a central authority, and she considered it was time it was done, and that this out-throat financial struggle to maintain a system of individualism in hospitals was stopped. It was injurious to the best interests of the patients and nurses. At present there was protection for neither. She advocated a Minister and Board of Health, under which department the health of the nation could be conserved and medical and nursing education be adequately provided for without this everlasting begging, borrowing, and waste. The whole question of national efficiency and power of competition in the future depends upon physical purity, and at present the forces fighting for such efficiency need co-ordinating so that the ghastly depravity existent in the slum home shall come under such laws as will stamp it out. At present we go on manufacturing decadents, the hospitals compete in patching them up, and without a standard of nursing there is much boggling at that.

Hoping you can find space for this letter in your valuable Journal.

Yours truly,

A MIDLAND MATRON.

"WAIT AND SEE."

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

DEAR MADAM,—A London man recently said to a Bart's nurse: "We are chuckling at the London over this appointment—that you will have to knuckle under to a Londoner." Thank God I am out of it.

Yours truly,

OUTRAGED.

[Our correspondent wrote man.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Miss C. T., Birmingham.—The article, "Thou Shalt do no Murder," by the Hon. Albinia Brodrick, appeared in last month's *Fortnightly Review*. It is all nonsense that such an article is injurious to the best interests of nursing, or an attack on the nursing profession. The people who injure trained nurses are those who, through monopolising power over them, and their earnings, do all in their power to prevent nurses helping themselves to improve their own work. We have a box full of newspaper cuttings dealing with such cases as Miss Brodrick reports. Hushing up abuses is the only really injurious policy. Read the article and do all in your power to prevent these "murders." The Editor will be grateful for cuttings from local papers dealing with the injury to the sick through inefficient nursing.

Notices.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is the official organ of the following important Nursing societies:—

The International Council of Nurses.

The National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

The Registered Nurses' Society.

The School Nurses' League.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

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.

An application form for those who wish to become members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses will be found on page iv. of cover. It will soon be too late to help on the important work of this Society. No habitual reader of this journal can, we feel sure, be content to stand aside and let others found the future Profession of Nursing. Now is the time to help.

OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

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