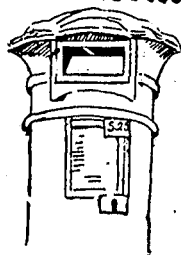


Letters to the Editor.



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 NIGHTINGALE MEMORIAL.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have read with deep interest, and more than once, your editorial of this week. I agree with the suggestions made, in their entirety. No man or woman has passed away who deserves to be memorialised more than the truly great woman Florence Nightingale, who was an altruist and a humanitarian, besides being a pioneer and a reformer. I suppose no one will deny that, in considering the proposals for suitable memorials, there is the national, and there is the professional aspect to be considered. I am glad to see that you emphasise this point.

Florence Nightingale was a highly educated woman, and in all her advice to others we find her insisting upon efficiency and thoroughness as the basis of all enduring work; in other words—a scientific basis. What could be more suitable, therefore, than—as you aptly put it—"a logical National Memorial" in the form of a College of Nurses.

Some might object that there is a danger of over-educating the nurse; but a moment's reflection will show such to be a foolish and groundless fear. Education—especially in the nurse—is never finished. In order to be an efficient Aid Society to the medical profession, with its rapid advancement and constant new discoveries, the nursing profession should offer facilities for post-graduate education, which your admirable scheme of a College of Nurses would supply. The lament of many nurses—many of them excellent nurses—is that they are getting rusty. The scheme would meet their need. The public are slow to realise that our profession is of great national importance; this would arouse their imagination.

Let us follow the example of the French, who may well be proud of their splendid college at the Salpêtrière in Paris, which I have had the pleasure of visiting. And what is a sum of £50,000 for an Empire like ours to subscribe for—shall I say—this patriotic scheme. As an act of love and respect for the work of a great patriot, England could not do better than erect and endow a College of Nurses. The suggestion of a professional memorial should also be welcomed by the nurses of the Empire; a statue in Trafalgar Square appeals to me more than one in Westminster Abbey, as being more conspicuous, and near the Royal College of Physicians, and so more suitable. I would suggest that no one but nurses should subscribe to this; let us make it all our own.

"Standing still is childish folly,
Going backward is a crime.

Onward, ye deluded Nations,
Onward—keep the march of Time!"

I fear I have trespassed too much upon the space of this journal, which stands for the progress alluded to.

BEATRICE KENT.

P.S.—I hope many other readers of the journal will find time to express their opinions upon this important matter.

A RELIABLE OPINION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I enclose my yearly subscription to THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

While watching with interest the march of events, one cannot but deplore how very slowly State Registration approaches.

It is a grievous thing that so much opposition should be met with. Writing from a country that has had registration for some years, I can state with confidence that the benefit to the public is incalculable, and the nursing profession is relieved of much odium undeservedly bestowed. It is so easy for a "bogus" nurse to glibly explain that she is thoroughly trained, and who can question her statements?

Here the register is at once referred to and all doubts set at rest.—Believe me, yours faithfully,

J. MELITA JONES, R.N.

Okeokinga Institute for Trained Nurses,
Auckland, New Zealand.

THE NURSE AS SOCIAL WORKER.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I should like to record with what great interest I read the article on "The Nurse as Social Worker" in your issue of the 3rd September.

I wonder if there are any school nurses or health visitors who have not sadly realised in the course of their duties "that peculiar mental condition which is bound to result from the constant depressing struggle for bare existence."

Those of us who are Suffragists realise only too well that if the laws of maintenance, as they affect the wives and children of working men, were altered, to the advantage of the former, they would go far to removing the cause of this "mental state." To illustrate this: In the course of my duties I was visiting a mother in order to ascertain why she had not been able to have a physical defect in one of her children remedied. She had previously promised to do this, and help had been forthcoming. I was unable to penetrate this very "mental condition" that Miss Pearse so ably defines. I knew that here was an apathetic indifference to the welfare of her children that was not natural to the woman. Happening to be in this home just at the dinner hour, she asked me to excuse her while she dispatched her "man's" dinner to his place of work. This dinner consisted of a good-sized Yorkshire pudding and piece of roasted meat—an adequate amount for three grown people. This was all sent per small son to the "legal parent."

A light dawned on me! I felt I had the key to this mental state that was baffling me. I made inquiries as to what mother and the four children

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