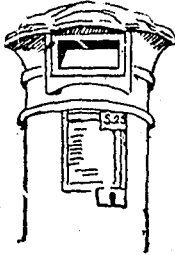


Letters to the Editor.



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.

A LITTLE LOPSIDED.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Being very keenly interested in the proposed memorial to the late Miss Florence Nightingale I attended the meeting convened at Grosvenor House on Friday last. Whilst entirely approving of the resolution which was passed, to the effect that an Imperial Memorial should be organised, I could not help smiling at the constitution of the Committee nominated. Ten or eleven men and one woman to decide upon a suitable memorial to a woman, and which is presumably to be used for the benefit of women!

It is to be hoped that representative women will not be excluded from the Committee of Management of any scheme to honour the memory of the most noble of their sex; in my opinion they should predominate upon it.

I remain, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

MARY BURR.

THE NURSING PROFESSION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I notice it is stated that the Matrons composing, or in part composing, various committees to arrange national memorials, are described as "representing the nursing profession." It is a little difficult to understand how a self-elected committee represents anybody. Further, as the Army authorities have had to learn that the Army consists not only of generals and officers, but of the rank and file also; so perhaps in time the "heads of the nursing profession" will appreciate the fact that to be a head you must have a body to be head of, that our profession does not consist solely of matrons, and that nurses also are entitled to express an opinion as to the form which they desire the memorials to which they subscribe to take. Or will the matrons who exclusively manage these memorials finance them also? So far the existence of the certificated nurse seems to be ignored.

Yours, with some curiosity,

A MERE NURSE.

THE NURSES' GOSPEL LEAGUE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—A correspondent asks for opinions as to the formation of a Nurses' Gospel League, "for the free distribution of the Gospel and Gospel literature to the patients in hospitals." It must, however, be remembered that the patients in a hospital include those of many branches of the Christian Church, Non-conformists, Established,

Roman, etc., and the free distribution of literature is no part of a nurse's province. All hospitals have their duly appointed chaplains, beyond which it is the duty of a nurse to ascertain if her patient desires to see any special priest or minister, to acquaint any such with his desire for their services when expressed, and do her utmost to secure their ministrations, but proselytising on the part of a nurse is neither desirable nor permissible. Short of this, however, "if there be first the willing mind," there are many ways in which a nurse can help the patients in her charge.

Yours faithfully,

WARD SISTER.

REFORM IN SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

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

MADAM,—Everybody knows that the advantage of the public over the private slaughter-house has been repeatedly demonstrated in this and other countries, and very important recommendations in favour of well-ordered abattoirs have repeatedly been made, for instance, by the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis, the Admiralty Commission on Humane Slaughtering, the Public Health Committee of the London County Council, and like authorities. The establishment of properly registered abattoirs under the inspection of veterinary officers and open always to the observation of humane people, is indeed the only possible way of securing the merciful slaughter of animals; yet, owing to the unaccountable apathy of the general public, the realisation of a rational method of slaughter is apparently no nearer coming to pass than it was 25 years ago, when the late Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson first urged its adoption, and we still remain the only civilised people in Europe, if not in the world, without a genuine abattoir system. "It is astounding," writes Mr. C. Cash, B.A., in his comprehensive book, 'Our Slaughterhouse System' (which all who are interested in this important humanitarian question should read), "that in a country where there is so much sensitiveness—we might say hyper-sensitiveness—with regard to animal suffering, where, for instance, the law has interfered to prohibit traction by dogs on the score of cruelty, the needless and systematic cruelty of our slaughtering methods should have been ignored."

In this connection it is to be regretted that no more definite recommendation was made by the Admiralty Commission with regard to the use of some more modern and less barbarous appliance than the pole-axe, which is put to shame by the splendid equipment and mechanical contrivances now in use in many Continental abattoirs, and we should do well to follow their lead in this as in other particulars.

Yours, etc.,

JOSEPH COLLINSON.

Notices.

OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

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