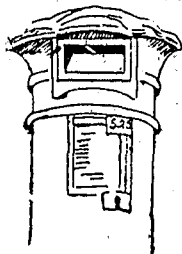


Letters to the Editor.



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.

OUR WEEKLY PRIZE COMPETITION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—With much pleasure I received your cheque for 5s. to-day for the competition on "Nasal Douching." Thank you very much.

Yours faithfully,

ANNIE E. WATERMAN.

Islington Workhouse,
St. John's Road,
Upper Holloway, N.

THE VALUE OF HOSPITAL CERTIFICATES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Your editorial on the "Value of Hospital Certificates" has given me more than pleasure. It voices so exactly what I have been feeling very deeply, and trying to explain to the Dublin people for some time; but being myself an Irish Trained Nurse, all I said was only put down to jealousy and self-interest. That is not the case, but I hate to see the training schools degenerating, as they undoubtedly must do; and that is what you have pointed out so clearly and concisely in your article.

There was a great deal of indignant writing to the Irish Press, and some very absurd correspondence in a lay nursing paper a year ago on the subject of "English Matrons in Irish Hospitals" that only stirred up a lot of bad feeling and ill-will, and quite missed the point altogether. As I have always said, let the best candidate be chosen by all means, irrespective of nationality, even a Chinese (the most foreign person I can think of) if she were the best qualified for the post. But why give the preference to a candidate just because she is English, regardless of previous experience, as was done admittedly twice in the past two years, and a very good and experienced Irish candidate passed over? It is not now that the mischief will show, it is in a few years time, when the hospitals will find that their nurses are not what they were, and that the tone that we have so prided ourselves on, is already fast fading. It seems such a pity, and I hate to think of it! I have not a word to say against the English Matrons, after a few mistakes, and a period of unrest, until they have learned to understand their Irish staffs, and the Irish patients, they have usually found their feet, and have turned out excellent Matrons. But that is not the point, we must think of the future, and it is so stupid of the Dublin directors not to see that they are discrediting their own hospital certificates.

I felt that I must write and thank you for having written so exactly what I have been wanting to write myself, only I had not the courage, and coming from you it is worth many times more!

Believe me,

Yours truly,

AN IRISH TRAINED NURSE.

P.S.—There is another point that I forgot to mention, and that is the result of the fits and letters in the *Irish Times* and other papers was to raise up a very bitter spirit on the part of our English sisters, who justly complained of the rudeness and inhospitality of the remarks (and Dublin has always been noted for its hospitality), while Irish nurses are cordially received and welcomed in England (but they don't get the plums!). The splendid reception given to Miss Haughton on her appointment to Guy's Hospital was held up as an example, but then she was not an Irish Trained Nurse, but was one of their own graduates, and that is where the trouble lies. It is not the Irish nurses who are passed over, but the Irish Trained Nurses.

THE SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF TRAINED NURSES

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

DEAR MADAM,—For a considerable time the need for a national union has been strongly felt by many trained nurses throughout Scotland. It has now been resolved by those in favour of such a course to form the above-named Society.

In every profession organisation is a powerful aid to unity and progress; interest is stimulated, activity increased, and strength combined. With the exception of "The Scottish Matrons' Association" there has, up till the present time, been no organisation in Scotland composed of trained nurses. Two associations were formed in 1909. "The Association for the Promotion of Registration in Scotland" was formed (as its title implies) for legislative purposes. "The Scottish Nurses' Association" recognises as eligible for membership medical practitioners, nurses, probationer nurses, and "others." For legislative purposes mixed organisations have advantages, but nurses' associations which include within their scope other objects than legislation have been found—for good and obvious reasons—to be most useful when composed of nurses. These facts have been widely recognised by the nurses of other nations.

For the efficient care of the sick it is desirable that nurses should keep themselves in touch with all movements at present affecting their profession; and it is essential that they should keep themselves abreast in the many and frequent changes which medicine and surgery demand in theoretical and practical nursing.

In the interests of nurses it is necessary that they be able to take counsel together with the object of obtaining and giving expression to their opinions; and it is desirable that they should keep themselves informed as to all national and international nursing movements.

At the completion of training begins what is often the "higher education" of nurses. Many nurses' work in isolated positions, so far as intercourse with

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)