

are neither comfortable nor decent; but their lives would be impossible unless they had a Home on the spot. Nothing will satisfy the type of young woman who "wants her evenings out"; the pity of it is that she is ever taken in. Judging from the amount of trash published by the lay press during the past six months on the nursing question (I grant you there is a question), the patients are to be sincerely commiserated, also the Matrons and Sisters.

Yours truly,

ONE OF THE OLD SORT.

THE GROWING PAINS OF EVOLUTION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Those of us who are now out of hospital and taking part in the Woman's Movement see in the dim and distant future a settlement of all this nursing discontent. I doubt, however, if we shall live to enjoy it. It appears to me that this craving for more liberty is in reality a moral and mental demand, not necessarily physical at all. Thousands of young nurses want to realise themselves; they feel cooped up, restrained, one of a driven flock. Excepting *sub rosa* they never have an opportunity of discussing their own professional lives at all. The unpractical suggestion to "live out" is the result of suppression—once outside the gates life would be less conventional, so they think. It wouldn't; for working women with no private income it would be more difficult in every way.

Our vision is to substitute Nurses' College for Nurses' Home, organise the Residence on a collegiate basis, and in off-duty hours do away with fussy and intolerable supervision. Let each pupil nurse make more or less of a home for herself in her own room (why, even lads of twelve are permitted so much licence in their public schools). Do away altogether in off-duty hours with the reformatory spirit—for it still lingers in many Nurses' Homes—where, after a bedroom has been swept and garnished (or not) in the morning, it may not be occupied again until night! Treat probationers as pupils, and not as domestics used to be treated (they won't submit to it now). Let them sprout, and don't be for ever nipping off the buds. Here lies most valuable work ready to the hands of our Matrons. It is because so many grown women are suffering from the growing pains of evolution that they crave for mental expansion. This I believe to be the cause of all this attempt to kick over the traces. It is because women realise they are not *living* to the full, mentally and physically, when cooped up in Homes and restricted by rules and regulations, forbidden in the majority to even discuss their own professional affairs by the men who *govern* them, that we find this spirit of discontent and insubordination abroad in the nursing world, and an increasing disinclination upon the part of refined and educated girls to train as nurses. The right type of woman cares nothing that work is hard, hours long, and pay small,

but she does care that her *soul* should be in her own keeping. It isn't now.

Yours sincerely,

A MODERN NURSE.

THANKS FOR KINDLY INTEREST.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I thank you very much indeed for the kind remarks you have made in your journal regarding my case and the kindly interest displayed on my behalf. The whole thing ought never to have happened, and could have been closed at the time by a little letter of regret from Lord Balfour and an apology; and all the strain for two and a-half years would have been avoided besides the trouble and expense of it all. However, I am more than glad the whole matter is now ended.

Thanking you again,

Yours very sincerely

L. B. COUPER,

Clackmannanshire Combination
Infectious Diseases Hospital,
Alloa.

Matron.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

January 10th.—Describe briefly how food and water may act as carriers of infection. Give examples of diseases so produced.

January 17th.—Describe your management of the patient's breasts in an obstetrical case from the moment her child is born.

January 24th.—Give a short description of the following diseases, with details of their general nursing and management (a) chorea, (b) acute meningitis.

January 31st.—What is a hydatid cyst? Mention the two commonest situations in which they are found, also the surgical emergencies which are likely to occur in connection with them.

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