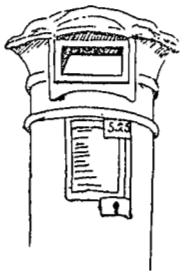


what he had said : a favourite spaniel had pups a few days after, and he took one of them in hand. In an incredibly short space of time, the long-drawn nose of Wagtail, as the children had named him, in which, doubtless, was gathered the experience of many thoughtful generations, had learned to track Theodora to whatever retreat she might have chosen ; and very amusing it was to watch the course of the proceedings. Some one would come running to my father with the news that Theo was in hiding. Then my father would give a peculiar whistle, and Wagtail, who (I must say *who*) very seldom failed to respond, would come bounding to his side. It was necessary that my father should *lay him on* (is that the phrase ?), for he would heed no directions from any one else. It was not necessary to follow him, however, which would have involved a tortuous and fatiguing pursuit ; but in a little while a joyous barking would be heard, always kept up until the ready pursuers were guided by the sound to the place. There Theo was certain to be found hugging the animal, without the least notion of the traitorous character of his blandishments : it was long before she began to discover that there was danger in that dog's nose. Thus Wagtail became a very important member of the family—a bond of union, in fact, between its parts. Theo's disappearances, however, became less and less frequent—not that she made fewer attempts to abscond, but that every one knowing how likely she was to vanish, whoever she was with had come to feel the necessity of keeping both eyes upon her. (*To be continued.*)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

(Notes, Queries, &c.)

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.

We shall be happy to answer, as far as we can, all questions submitted to us. Communications, &c., not noticed in our present number will receive attention when space permits.

"AN HISTORIC EVENT."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Dear Sir,—In common, I doubt not, with all my sister Members of the B.N.A., I read with much interest in the pages of our *Record* of the presentation of the first Register of Nurses and Members to H.R.H. the Princess Christian, and this was not inaptly called an "historic event."

I do not know how it may appear to other Members, but

to my mind the event was not made half "historic" enough, and to my way of thinking it would have been not otherwise than a courteous and considerate act had our leaders invited every Member of the B.N.A. to assist at it, so that all who could, or would, might have been allowed to come. Whether the presentation were rushed through in ten or fifteen minutes does not affect my contention, that an historic event should have had an historic celebration as far as B.N.A. are concerned, even though it had made some demands upon our exchequer. I am the more moved to these reflections by the recollection of a certain event that took place last summer, in which seven hundred Nurses took part, and H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, with his unflinching princely grace, gave a mark of personal recognition to every Nurse there present. Now I just ask my sister Members which of the events I have just touched upon were the more "historic" of the two? The latter was to encourage a scheme that never has, and never can, stand practical criticism; moreover it was personal to the Nurse, and it left the Nursing art unaffected. In our "historic event" the very opposite was the case; our leaders, after infinite care and pains, had completed a toilsome and troublesome task, for which they have earned and deserve the thanks and congratulations of every Member of the B.N.A., and a great many who are not. Their great work marks a distinct advance in the path of Nursing progress, the first instalment of the promise that the Association should *raise* the position of the Nursing art, and this indeed should be the *first* and highest wish of every Member of it, and quite out of the range of *personal* considerations; hence my contention that we should have assisted at the "exaltation" of our art on the auspicious occasion of the 9th ult.

We Nurses are hard-working women, whose life spells duty, and both devotion to it, and scant time have we, and but little inclination, for sight-seeing of holiday times; but all that concerns the well-being of our beloved art is of never-failing interest to us, and I cannot but think that many Members (especially our Metropolitan sisters) would have been able to assist at the "historic" event of the 9th ult. had they been invited.

The simple sensible words that fell from royal lips, the silvery tones of the Chrysostom of our Association, would not have fallen upon unappreciative ears, might even have percolated to sympathetic hearts, for had not good and honoured work been done by our trusted leaders?

And if our able and esteemed Hon. Secs. had (after the royal departure, of course) each in his or her clear terse way addressed a few words to the assembled Nurses, and pointed out (in ten minutes?) the *part each worker* at the Register had taken in it, would it have made the event any the less "historic," and any the less served to fix it indelibly upon the hearts and minds of Members?

Benefit may awaken self-interest, but little courtesies will often kindle enthusiasm, and evoke that feeling of *esprit de corps* by which alone associations, whether of men or women, can be led up to dare and do great deeds; anyhow, great is the future before the B.N.A.—I am, dear Sir, yours truly,
MARIAN HUMFREY.

IDEAL NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I have much pleasure in reading in the *Nursing Record* the "Post-card Examination" bearing on this subject. I consider the *Record* a great boon to Nurses, especially to us in country Infirmaryes. Allow me, if you will, first to say a few words on ideal Nurses.

I have been a Trained Nurse for seven years, and think I have a slight idea of what an ideal Nurse ought to be, but it is very pleasant to enjoy other people's opinion as well as my own. I feel I must bring before you two Nurses—one an ideal Nurse, according to some of the post cards; one, my ideal Nurse. No. 1 a woman of splendid appearance, never untidy,

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