

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Nurses are proverbially a grumbling community, so you will not be surprised when I venture to suggest that you have omitted a *very* important point in your criticism of the London Hospital scandals. You plead for protection for the regular Probationers; they have it if they have the courage and self-respect to avail themselves of the appeal to the Committee. Even if, as at present constituted, one appeal would be "a farce," the second would be less so; and if these appeals were repeated, the true state of things would be revealed. But you have forgotten—and the Committee in their report have most conveniently done the same—those young women who are admitted into the London Hospital *on trial* in great numbers, whose engagements are never reported to the Committee, and who during the varying number of weeks they are working in the Hospital *receive no pay*. These women's names appear on no official list; they enter, they work, they are kept or discharged by the Matron, without a reason being given them, and the Committee is as absolutely ignorant of their advent, qualifications, or departure, as if it did not exist. Is this absolute autocracy or not? For the love of justice do expose this abuse if you can.—
Yours, &c.,
A SYMPATHISER.

HONOR FIDELITATIS PRAEMIUM.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Neither do I see the full force of "E. F. M.'s" remarks, so you will kindly permit me to say well done! to your correspondent and contributor "Obstetrica." *Speo-temur agendo*, I have followed her in "Obstetric Nursing" with interest throughout, and, being a "lone" worker, the words and work of that devoted soul—to humanity—have been betimes a source of encouragement, have ratified or confirmed my own opinions. But, those naughty *noms de plume*!

How loth we Englishmen and Englishwomen are to accord honour to whom honour is due! How exceedingly slow to learn the lesson taught us by that wonderful Goethe—viz., "He only who renounces self is worthy to rule, or can rule!" There is always scope for properly consecrated earnestness and earnest workers; "before thoughtful enterprise and persistent plodding every barrier must in time yield."

To those "knowing" juniors I would say, *Don't be too sure*. "A man has to learn how much he can do every day, and do well."—Yours faithfully,
PHILOSOPHER.

HORSERADISH AND BEEF.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Your correspondent of Dec. 18, 1890, is "puzzled" and "amused" by the visiting committee of some Workhouse recommending for the Christmas fare, 44 stone of meat and suet, 42lb. horseradish, saying there appears to be 11b. horseradish provided for every 3½lb. meat.

As there are 8lb. to a stone of meat, there was 11b. horseradish allowed to every 8lb. 6oz. meat, according to my calculations.—Yours truly,
M. W.

RELIGIOUS TOLERATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I am afraid my friend, "A Yorkshireman," is just a wee bit sarcastic; never mind, I will forgive him this time. And now a few words more to "Yorkshireman." May I ask him if his gospel he wishes to preach takes him as far as the following:—The woman who cannot point a dying unsaved soul to the foot of Christ's cross and show His precious love has not any right to fill the ranks of such a noble work as "Nursing." But, on the other hand, it is certainly not a

Nurse's duty to inform any patient of his danger without permission from his family and Doctor in attendance. Certainly, I believe in death-bed repentance, for hath I he not said, "Him that cometh to Me I will in *no wise* cast out"? So far as our merciful Redeemer is concerned, it is quite possible, but it is also sadly probable, that the heart of the unsaved one will not be willing to receive the love. But all this is not to do with the Nurse; she must do her duty and leave the result to God. One closing statement, What does "Yorkshireman" mean when he says, "No washing out the past"? Certainly not by any human effort, but by the blood of Jesus.

"For my pardon this I see,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus,
For my cleansing this I see,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow,
No other Fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Faithfully yours,
A. B. TYSON.

THE BADGE DESIGN.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Dear Sir,—In respect to the above I hold, and have ever held, that the B.N.A. should have a seal—incorporation or no incorporation—and that our badge should be the *same* as our seal. If either of these signify anything they mark fidelity to principles, loyalty to each other, *i.e.*, our Association. Collectively we should seal them with our seal; individually we should wear the sign of them on our badge.

I can understand our leaders taking the opinions of, or submitting a design for, our seal to their constituents, but it scarcely accords with my views for members to take the initiative in the matter. It is not as though the badge was proposed as a mark of distinction for Nursinghood—the question concerns only an important, though I profoundly hope an increasing, section of it who have joined our ranks.

All these signs are in a measure an outcome of heraldry, and we know that in the households of the great, retainers do not decide upon what crest they shall wear, but all bear alike that of the head of the house; nor does a gentleman put one crest on his brougham and another on his victoria.

On some such lines I consider we of a great nursing household should have an outward and visible sign of it. Our leaders have selected a *motto*, and I think members of the B.N.A. may fairly call upon them to decide by what sign we are to show ourselves "steadfast" and by what token "true," and complete their task by letting us have our motto made imperishable on a seal which all the world over should be our badge of membership.—I am, dear Sir, yours truly,
JUSTITIA.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We regret that we are unable to insert the great number of letters sent to us for publication this week, but will print them as space permits. We are glad our last issue has aroused such wide-spread interest.—ED. N. R.]

Ignoramus.—You must give up three years to learn your profession; if you wish to take a first place in its ranks, go to a Nursing School where a Certificate is given after three years' training.

Miss M. C.—We quite understand your point of view. If you knew, however, the personal scandals which are behind all this, and which are a disgrace to the whole profession, and therefore are being kept in the background as long as possible, you would be one of the first to support the movement. We are writing to you.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)