

Said Alexander on the eve of Ian's departure by stealth to India, "We sin in differing ways, and at differing times, but we all sin. And we all struggle with it and through it, and onwards. There must be some kind of star upon our heights. Well, let us work it out together, old Saracen."

H. H.

### 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.*

#### TRAINED NURSES IN PUBLIC HEALTH. To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I draw attention to an important point in regard to Dr. Addison's scheme for the training of Public Health Nurses? Since it has already been approved (whether we welcome it or not) and the fundamental regulations have been established, it is waste of time to protest against them when we might be considering the possibilities of future developments.

Moreover, why should trained nurses uphold the system (or lack of system) of Hospital Committees as incomparable? Is it not through the stubborn attitude of Hospital Committees that we are still a disordered and uncertain body which could not be moulded into any national scheme on organised lines as a profession?

Have they taken any pains to secure suitable probationers and to see that they have facilities for a sound training; or have they left us to train ourselves during hours of drudgery and short periods of "rest"?

Have they helped us to raise our status and improve the standard of training; or have they schemed to perpetuate our low status, by booming the partially trained nurse and wrecking our Bill for State Registration?

[Maybe the energy of our official representatives could be put to some fruitful purpose in connection with Dr. Addison's scheme, which, as already outlined, closely resembles the procedure in training for other professions. Doctors, barristers and teachers commence their studies without a gap of several years between those studies and their ordinary school life; and they do not take up the most responsible positions as soon as they pass their final examination. No; they are recognised as *inexperienced* and commence with the minimum salary accordingly, in posts of *limited responsibility*.

Why, then, should we fear the advent of a professional basis for the training of nurses?

Would it not be better to bombard the Minister of Health with requests to consider the position of hospital nurses and district nurses, who will, in the course of time, form important sections of his "National Nursing Service," and urge him to push on with the promised Bill for State Registration?

That secured, what is to prevent us from continuing to bombard somebody with claims for higher education of nurses, until we gradually obtain such improvement in the standard for hospital nurses that these as well as Health Visitors, &c., should be required to undergo the preparatory course laid down in the scheme under discussion?

Is not our demand for "State Registration of Nurses" in itself a condemnation of the present training of nurses, embracing as it does "Higher Education" and "Standardisation."

If only nurses would look for the *argument* and not for the *name*, we should have no need to fear such traps as "The College of Nursing, Ltd."

Yours faithfully, ONWARD.

#### REGISTRATION UP-TO-DATE IN THE UNITED STATES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MY DEAR MADAM,—In the August 30th number of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, under the title of "Registration Up to Date in the United States," some statements were made which indicate that you are not familiar with the Illinois nursing law as passed by the legislature this last session.

Enclosed is a copy of the law. By it you will see that at least two years' training in a hospital is essential for registration. The bill also provides for at least one year of high school work, which is an improvement on the former law, as in that there was no educational standard. Annual renewal of registration has also been secured. The change from three years in the hospital to two years was made upon the advice of the leading nurse educators of this country, in order that the third year might be used for a broader affiliation with other educational institutions. While the bill, of course, does not have some of the conditions which were asked for, such as four years of high school work for admission, it is still a satisfactory measure, and is in no way a backward step for nurse education.

Believe me, yours truly,

M. H. McMILLAN,  
President.

Presbyterian Hospital, Chicago.

[With less than three years' practical ward work, it is difficult to ensure the best skilled nursing for the patients, or the best teaching for the nurses.—Ed.]

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##### QUESTIONS.

October 18th.—How are foods digested? Name the various juices secreted by the different parts of the alimentary canal.

October 25th.—In what ways may a patient's breathing be affected, and what is their significance?

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