



## 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.*

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—In your issue of last week's *Nursing Record* reference is made to Miss Allen's recent appointment to the General Hospital, Birmingham, and that (with reference to this lady's system of training Probationers) "much dissatisfaction has been caused amongst the more advanced members of the Ladies' Committee, at Carlisle, by the inauguration of a system of short, and, in consequence, insufficient, training for the Nurses to be utilized for Private Nursing in connection with the Infirmary, Miss Allen having expressed an opinion that one year's training would be quite sufficient for the purpose."

Miss Allen has not expressed any such opinion, and I beg to inform you that the conditions on which Probationers are received at the Cumberland Infirmary are principally as follows:—

1. Probationers are bound for three years, and during their third year are available for Private Nursing.

A Certificate of Training is given at the end of the second year.

2. Special Probationers (to pay a premium) coming for twelve months' training, are, if satisfactory, given a twelve months' Certificate of Training.

Print of Rules is sent herewith.

By the above arrangement you will see that Nurses would not be put to Private Nursing until they had had at least two years' training, and as to their being available for Private Nursing during their third year, this is a practice, I believe, universally adopted, so that the Cumberland Infirmary, with its contemplated Home for Private Nurses (under Miss Allen) would be in exactly the same position as other hospitals.

Judging from the very excellent work Miss Allen has done during the 4½ years she has been Matron of the Cumberland Infirmary, testified by the Committee's resolution on her resignation, I do not think a retrograde step need be feared at the General Hospital, Birmingham, in any department under Miss Allen's control, her work at Carlisle being exceptionally sound and thorough.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

J. GEO. HOWITT, Sec.

[We refer to this matter in another column. If Mr. Howitt had proved that he possessed an accurate acquaintance—however elementary—with nursing matters, we should have derived more comfort from his assurances.—ED.]

## AN EIGHT HOURS' NURSING DAY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR SIR,—In order to fairly appreciate the bearings of this question, let us consider some of the grounds upon which it rests. In the first place it is a perfectly sound basis to go upon, as it allows of *safe extension* in times of stress without unduly distressing the Nursing Staff. No advocate for an eight hours' nursing day ever, to my knowledge, contended that a Nurse should *never* work more, only that all above that should be considered *excess*. It is obvious to all that a Nurse who is *not* habitually overworked, can far better stand strain, and be more efficient in times of need than one who is.

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