

Letters to the Editor.

SHAM NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—Some little time ago the readers of the *Record* saw an account of a Nurse, to all appearances, selling cabbages from a stall in the street. I thought it was wrong, but concluded that she was, perhaps, not so much to blame as those Matrons, I have heard of, in London, who dispose of their Nurses' cast-off uniform at jumble sales, which is most unwise, to say the least of it. But do you not think it is high time something was done to protect the profession, when Nurses are used as advertisements? In our town we have lately been much annoyed by the daily appearance of six women, or girls, two of whom are not more than 16 years of age. They are dressed in Nurses' outdoor costume, and carry black bags like those used by the district Nurses of our Home, but having "Wilson's Food" painted on them in large white letters. They take odd freaks with the dress—one day wearing white bordering all round the bonnet, with the hair hanging down to the waist, another day frizzed on the top of of the head, etc., etc. Three of these women followed me on my round the other morning, "doing" each house in the street while I was with my patient, and ready to go on after me. They tell the people they are Nurses from the London Hospital, and almost compel them to buy the food offered them, while some of the people who have received benefit from a Nurse's visits do not like to refuse, thinking they are helping some institution. Each day we hear of them doing something not at all creditable to the dress—standing at corners talking and laughing in a coarse vulgar manner, "so different," the people say, "to anything they have seen the Nurses do here," and they ask if all the London Nurses are like these? Our uniform is worn for convenience, Nurses not

having much time to waste on dress; secondly, for protection. It enables us to go about the town and in any neighbourhood at all hours of the night in safety; but, as our Superintendent said, after seeing these women behave in a very flighty manner on the station platform, "it will soon be the reverse." The whole matter lies, as it were, in a nutshell. Ought our dress to be kept sacred for what it is intended, or ought it to be allowed, as in this case, simply as a means for making money in an unprofessional manner?—I am, dear Sir, faithfully yours,
THISTLE.

[We refer to this matter, and answer our Correspondent's query in another column.—Ed.]

THE WORCESTER INFIRMARY SCANDAL.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—I have read your remarks concerning the above case with immense interest, and, as a citizen of Worcester, beg to inform you that great indignation is felt in the town about this disgraceful affair. The Infirmary is largely under the control of Clergymen, as is natural in a Cathedral City, and we are in hopes that a stir will be made concerning the matter, and the repetition of such conduct on the part of the Matron made impossible. I am only a layman, but my knowledge of professional matters is sufficient to surprise me that the Nurses of our Hospital are *treated medically* by the Matron, and not by the Medical Staff. Upon inquiry, I find that the treatment of Miss Belsey was even more outrageous than has been represented in your columns, and I only hope you will continue to expose, by every means in your power, such inexcusable tyranny.—I am, &c.,

INDIGNANT.

P.S.—I read your paper constantly, and think a visit on the part of "Phyllis Graham" to the Worcester Infirmary might be productive of good. The "throat scene," for instance, would, I am sure, have been told with immense effect.

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