



## 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.*

### THE KATE MARSDEN LEPER FUND.

Sister KATE COLLINS, M.R.B.N.A., has given a donation of 5s. to the above Fund, which is here acknowledged, and has been sent to the Bankers of the fund.

### "CHARITABLE SWEATING."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—Being a woman, I have naturally less sympathy with my sex than you have—and, moreover, being a Nurse, I have less patience with Nurses. Week after week, year after year, you have been good enough to fight our cause in your plucky little paper. I have been a constant reader from its first issue, and, after four years, I was just beginning to wonder how long you would continue to support a class of women, who, with a few glorious exceptions, are absolutely devoid of professional feeling. "Nurse sweating" is not half the disgrace to the Nurse sweater as it is to the Nurses themselves. They are the more blameworthy. How long will the Nurses of this country—many of them educated women—surreptitiously read your paper, week by week, heartily agree with its sentiments, and yet continue to occupy the position of soulless machines? Where is the self-

respect of these women? Have they not yet grasped the fact that the skill, time, and devotion of a trained Nurse is valued by the public at the sum (and little enough, surely) of Two Guineas a week? Have they not yet realized that by the payment of 7 per cent. for office expenses (as proved by the Nurses' Co-operation in New Cavendish Street), they can actually keep the remaining £1 19s. "for their own selves"? Why should they work night and day to fill the coffers of such "commercial charities" as Guy's, King's, and the London, where their hard earnings are taken from them in the most unblushing manner, in order to show a mercenary Committee how clever are their highly salaried officials? When I think of the bland smirks and smiles of these officials when a rich Governor presents them with a cheque for half the sum extorted yearly without thanks or recognition from their luckless Nurses, I feel deeply indignant, not so much at the rapacity of the employer, as at the lack of all self-respect and *esprit de corps* on the part of the great majority of Nurses themselves.

Nurses must not rail against the tyranny of the strong when all the power their "sweaters" possess is the result of their own cowardice. When by unselfish co-operation and high-minded devotion to one another—instead of a policy of "Every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost"—Nurses have won for their profession the universal respect accorded to what is brave and true, there may be some hope for us. At present, the prospect, I consider, is far from hopeful.—I am, &c.,

PROFESSIONAL FEELING.

MISS PHILIPPA HICKS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—I beg to enclose you a copy of Miss Hicks's interview in the *St. James's Gazette*. Perhaps some of your women readers will give us their opinion on its extraordinary assumptions.—Yours,

INDIGNANT.

[We refer to this in another column.—Ed.]

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