

January 1, 1902.

DEAR EDITOR: The sensational case of Jane Toppan has emphasized to the nursing profession the necessity of the nurse learning to mind her own business completely and exclusively. The practice of therapeutics is not in the province of a nurse, and she who is thoroughly trained never goes beyond her limits; it is the nurse who has spent a few months in the hospital and has picked up in a hap-hazard way a few facts regarding medicine that ventures to display her knowledge(?) and advises or prescribes.

The temptation to prescribe is at times great. The nurse is frequently consulted in regard to some slight illness and is considered as a person of no ability if she cannot recommend some remedy or method of treatment.

Then is the time when training, tact, and good-sense are of especial benefit to her. She can kindly refer them to their physician and must acknowledge her own inability to make a diagnosis or prescribe. The thoroughly trained nurse will never make other than legitimate use of her knowledge.

The charges against Jane Toppan may be unjust, but it is shown that she ventured beyond her depth, and the result is appalling!

May her mistake be a lesson to all nurses either professional or experienced. Let us be careful and faithful in these things which may seem small but are really of great importance, and thus prove our loyalty to the physicians for whom we work.

ADDIE E. DAVIS.

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ALHAMBRA, CAL.

DEAR EDITOR: Are there any three-years' course training-schools that will give a nurse with an eighteen-months' training from a small hospital an eighteen-months' or two-years' course with a diploma?

R. M.

[Information is asked for. We know of none.—Ed.]

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[LETTERS to the Editor must be accompanied by the name in full and address of the writer, otherwise such communications cannot be recognized. The name need not appear in the JOURNAL unless so desired.—Ed.]

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TOO LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION

GUILD OF ST. BARNABAS.

THE annual report, much delayed by reason of a strike, has been distributed, and the names of officers and members of the branches at Sandusky, O., and Norfolk, Va., have been omitted because the list had not been received in time to go to the printer with the other matter. The treasurer was also incorrectly designated secretary on the fly-leaf.

Slips will be furnished to the local secretaries for the correction of these errors as soon as possible.

ANNIE H. B. HOWE,  
Secretary-General.

