

CORRESPONDENCE.

(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 CORRESPONDENTS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Will any of your readers kindly tell me whether I can procure a book with fully detailed instruction to Nurses for preparing for all operations? I have "Notes on Surgery for Nurses," by Dr. Bell, Edinburgh.—Yours respectfully,
ANXIOUS.
15, St. Peter's Road, Margate, August 12, 1889.

B.N.A. MEETING AT CAMBRIDGE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I have read in this week's *Nursing Record* your account of the happy meeting at Cambridge of the Members of the British Nurses' Association, and I should like to say a few words for myself and others. To the Cambridge people who so handsomely entertained us we owe our very warmest thanks, and we feel sure wherever we go we never can again receive a warmer welcome or enjoy a happier day.

The extreme kindness of the Vice-Chancellor and Mrs. Searle, the great courtesy of the gentlemen of the College who so kindly showed us about and took so much trouble to explain the many interesting sights, the hearty welcome we received from Professor Humphry and Dr. McAlister, combined with the very perfect arrangements, which I learn was the work of the Secretary—all helped, as everyone acknowledged, to pass one of the pleasantest days we have ever enjoyed, and a day we will never forget.—Yours truly,
M. H. B.

MIDWIFE V. MONTHLY NURSE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—In the report of the meeting of the B.N.A. at the Mansion House in your issue of Aug. 1, there is a speech by Dr. Matthews Duncan of much interest, pointing out the good and important work done by skilled Midwives amongst the poor and middle classes; and he then makes this amazing, and to my mind contradictory statement, "The fact is, a Midwife is only a Trained Nurse. A Midwife and a Monthly Nurse are precisely the same thing!" With profound deference to so great an authority, I venture to assert that they are distinctly different "things." Midwifery is a science, Monthly Nursing is not. The duality suggested by Dr. Matthews Duncan might do for women who had half-a-dozen cases in twelve months and stuck to them all through, but these are not the sort of women by whom great practices are done, and great ends obtained. The magnificent results as to maternal and infantile mortality of our great maternity charities in London and the provinces are due to the employment of skilled Midwives, who practise upon a distinctly professional basis. The great disasters of midwifery

come down upon us with the suddenness and force of a tornado, and unless there is a calm and skilful hand at the helm, it would fare but ill with the gallant ship. In cases of suspended animation in newly-born infants, the measures necessary for resuscitation are not usually expected from a Monthly Nurse. It must never be forgotten that the perils of childbirth are greater to infantile than to maternal life. There is no more perilous hour in our lives than the hour of our birth, and it requires special midwifery skill to overcome these dangers. The larger number of still-births in the hands of ignorant than in professional women bears out the force of my observation.

Midwifery nursing is no more Midwifery than Surgical Nursing is Surgery, and I am surprised that Dr. Matthews Duncan has confused the issues in the way he has; by so doing, he, in my judgment, distinctly lowers that branch of the Medical profession in which he earned his distinction, and to irreverent minds might suggest the idea that it could be altogether dispensed with in favour of—the Monthly Nurse.—I am, Sir, yours truly,
A STAFF MIDWIFE.

LONDON CHILDREN AND THE COUNTRY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—The six hundred thousand London children of the Elementary Schools are the common concern of all Londoners. On their training—physical, mental, and spiritual—much thought is bestowed and much money is spent. Will you allow me at this holiday season to remind those who are planning a country visit for their children that without their help the greater number of the London children must spend their holidays in the streets, in a way which is not beneficial to their minds or bodies?

Last year the Children's Country Holidays Fund sent out seventeen thousand six hundred and thirty-seven children, selected from all the schools of London, without regard to sect or class, to enjoy a fortnight's holiday in a country cottage. The children were sent by visitors, who saw their needs, and collected from their parents such sums as they could afford, amounting last year to three thousand six hundred and fifty-nine pounds, five shillings and threepence. The organization of the fund prevented the favouring of one school by the neglect of another. The children came home not only strengthened by the fresh air and open space, but with new ideas of pleasure, new ideas of life, new friendships, and new material for hopes and imagination.

The regret is that so many were left in London because enough money was not subscribed to send more. The cost for each child is only ten shillings. The treasurer is the Hon. A. Lyttelton, 10, Buckingham Street, Strand, who will receive subscriptions.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
F. LONDIN.
Fulham Palace, July 30.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Inquirer.—Some hitch occurred concerning the representative, which accounts for the fact you mention. Your indignation is not singular; bread and butter at the expense of truth and honour is somewhat dearly bought.

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