



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

(Notes, Queries, &amp;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.*

*Communications, &c., not noticed in our present number will receive attention when space permits.*

## THREE QUERIES.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

Sir,—Will you kindly afford me the following information:—(1) The most economical and efficient way to become a Nurse? (2) If this can be arranged so that I may still live at home? (3) I am also desirous to attend lessons in Hypnotism with a view to its use in nursing?—Yours faithfully,  
C. N.

[(1) We would suggest that our correspondent should call upon the Secretary of the British Nurses' Association, 8, Oxford Circus Avenue, Oxford Street, W., who we feel sure would assist with information. (2) This will not be an easy matter. (3) See the paragraph respecting Hypnotism in the Nursing Echoes of last week.—ED.]

## NEW ANTISEPTIC ARTIFICIAL DRUM.\*

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

Sir,—I venture to send you a short communication in reply to many correspondents. During the past twelve months I have extensively employed in my aural practice the new antiseptic artificial membrane with excellent results. The most striking successes have always occurred in patients labouring under perforation of the tympanic membrane. I have tested the value of my artificial drumhead in one hundred and fifty cases of this disease, and, with only five exceptions, the results have been extremely satisfactory. Sometimes the improvement in the hearing power is established at once, the intensity of the sonorous vibration is immediately increased, and sounds can be clearly defined which before appeared to be only confusion. The sensibility of the organ is magnified, and the sense of hearing is so much changed that the patient does not appear deaf during ordinary conversation. The hearing distance is increased, and in place of earnest looks and strained attention the countenance expresses both pleasure and repose. Several patients have informed me that with the assistance of the artificial membrane sounds had been rendered audible which they had lost for many years. Some labouring under perforation in one ear only have used them with much benefit, and others have employed them as ear protectors with great comfort, for the artificial membrane forms a screen between the middle ear and the external meatus, and acts as a shield during rough and cold weather.

Sometimes good results can be obtained by simply adjusting the artificial membrane and replacing it as often as necessary. But in a large majority of cases perforation of the tympanic membrane is associated with chronic suppurative disease of the middle ear, so that other important remedial measures must be diligently practised, and the ear must every day be thoroughly cleansed and deodorised before the introduction of the artificial drum. I always tell my patients that they may hope for progressive improvement, but that they

\* See *Nursing Record*, January 23, 1890.

must not expect to realise the full amount of relief until they have regularly carried out the local treatment and worn the membrane for two or three months.

As regards the "putting in" and "taking out" of the artificial membranes, I recommend the use of a little instrument—a combination probe and forceps—which can be obtained from Messrs. Burroughs and Wellcome, of Snow Hill Buildings, London. The patient must learn to insert them for himself, and he will soon be able to perform the operation with great dexterity. The little hat should be taken out of the case with the forceps, not the fingers, and placed on the palm of the left hand. The probe end is then to be inserted in the crown, with the handle in a line with the knob on the slide. The instrument must be grasped like a pen, with the middle finger resting just behind the knob, which serves as a guide to the position of the handle. The artificial membrane is slipped off the probe by pushing up the slide, and in this way it can be accurately adjusted in the meatus, with the handle resting on the front wall of the passage. Sometimes a few gentle touches are required to place it in position and to regulate the amount of pressure for obtaining the best result.

The artificial drum can be easily removed from the ear with the little forceps. The patient must first of all open the blades, holding them with the thumb and forefinger about half an inch from their points and feel for the handle; then, by gentle action, it can be readily withdrawn. In cases of long standing discharge and perforation of the tympanic membrane, a new drum must be inserted in the ear every morning as soon as the deodorising treatment has been efficiently carried out.—I am, Sir yours faithfully,

Portsmouth.

J. WARD COUSINS, M.D.

## BADGES.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

Sir,—I have sent off my certificates, forms, &c., for Registration, and having read through last week's *Record*, I am anxious to ask you what has become of "Justitia," our persevering pleader for a badge? I enclose the emblem of the Peace Society, which the ladies wear as a brooch, and the gentlemen as scarf pins: it is a dove in silver, holding in its beak the olive branch, wrought in gold; the cost of the brooch is about six shillings.

As regards our badge, I would suggest that we had our certificates and testimonials printed in book form, containing fac-similes of our B.N.A. cards of membership, also the certificate of Registration (if we get it), and have the whole nicely got up, with the emblems of the three countries nicely got up, similar to the wreath on the florin, with the motto of the B.N.A. around it, I am sure no Nurse would be parsimonious in the matter, and we would have something to show then.—I remain, Sir, yours sincerely,  
HELEN DUNN, M.B.N.A.  
Beech House, London Road, Red Hill.

[We have modified our views somewhat on this matter, to the extent that we believe, if properly carried out and worn in the right spirit, a badge is permissible.—ED.]

## REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*C. Heath.*—No date to your letter. The Birmingham and Midland Counties Training Institution for Nurses, 26, Waterloo Street, Birmingham (write to the Lady Superintendent); also the Birmingham Lying-in Charity, 71, Newhall Street, Birmingham (apply to Secretary); the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham (apply to the Lady Superintendent); the General Hospital, Birmingham (apply to the Matron); the Wolverhampton and Staffordshire General Hospital, Wolverhampton (apply to Matron).

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)