



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.

We shall be happy to answer, as far as we can, all questions submitted to us.

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

AN EXPLANATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR SIR,—Some surprise has been expressed, and perhaps more disappointment felt, by some of my sister-members at the absence of municipal welcome and hospitality on the occasion of the visit of our Association to this city for its annual general meeting, so a few words of explanation may not be altogether out of place.

When the matter was brought before the Mayor, his worship expressed the greatest regret that owing to previous and important engagements it was not in his power to receive or entertain the Members of the B.N.A. who attended the annual meeting. The Council house was then being prepared for the reception of Her Majesty's judges for the opening of the Assizes; and, on the other hand, the British Medical Association had a prior claim to ours upon the Mayor's time and attention. The B.N.A. then, being "sandwiched" between these two, had to give way to both, and in this respect our leaders may take to heart the homely wisdom conveyed to us by that ancient fable, "The Two Pots."

With respect to private hospitality, the sub-committee had more offers of entertainment for larger numbers than were applied for, and no visitor need have left us that night had they wished to remain here. Was this fact sufficiently emphasised at head-quarters?

As our proposed journal will not appear (presumably) until October next, a little description of our excursion may not be without interest to those of my sister-members who were not fortunate enough to be able to join us, for the news (?) of it will be rather "mildewed" by the autumn.

After the meeting, those Members who were "down" for the excursion met at the Snow Hill Station of the G.W.R., close by the Eye Hospital, and took train for Warwick, a run of about twenty miles. At that station the brakes met us, and we drove on to Warwick Castle, which we were fortunate enough to have permission to view. After that we walked about the beautiful grounds, and some of us stormed the keep, and were rewarded for our prowess by a sylvan landscape of exquisite beauty. We then wended our ways back to castle gates, re-mounted our brakes, and drove on to Kenilworth, via Guy's Cliff, a lovely ride, on a lovely summer afternoon. At the first-named we halted and had our tea, and soon after pursued our homeward route to Leamington. It was intended to take Stoneleigh Park on our way, Lord Leigh's seat, but time failed us and we had to give that up. We drove right through Leamington, gay with all her summer beauty of flowers, shrubs and trees, all of which thrive there to perfection, to the Milverton Station of the G.W.R., and thence back to Birmingham.

The credit of this beautiful and successful little excursion must in all justice be rendered to Miss Baker, herself a Warwick lady,—I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

Birmingham.

MARIAN HUMFREY.

HOUSEHOLD SANITARY INSPECTORS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—Whilst visiting recently several beautiful villages, towns and cities of England, I have had occasion to remark again and again upon the many *closed* windows which have met my view. It has truly been said that "each person should have at least 800 cubic feet of space with a due current of air." Every bedroom (wherever practicable) should have the windows open the greater part of the day, so as to thoroughly aerate it. In the case of the very poor, who huddle together in winter in a small room, one can easily understand this; but what shall we say about the sunny hours?

I have pleasure in handing you the following cutting, from an American paper, which deals with the self-same subject. —Very sincerely yours,

VINCENT VERITAS.

"In planning a house especial regard should be paid to the accommodations for children. Many recognise the fact that a properly arranged nursery will diminish the doctor's bills, and yet the experience and forethought which might prevent disease are too often wanting. The word *prevention* is a large term, and it is not always possible to ward off disease. We may not know the cause of some maladies, but we may check or prevent a great many of them. If individual householders were more willing to recognise this truth, and would look out for the sanitary condition of their own homes, the public authorities would have much less to do. Too much attention cannot be bestowed on children's sleeping-rooms, especially in the matter of pure air and sunlight. It is, above all, important to prevent foul and steamy vapours from the kitchen and laundry, damp emanations from the cellar, and the impurities from gas and other lights from concentrating there. Some means of ventilation are indispensable in every dwelling to prevent the rising of impure atmosphere toward the roof. Shut off the children's bedrooms from the rest of the house and open a window somewhere near by for the escape of the impure air."

EXCELSIOR!

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—Probably some of your readers might appreciate the review hereunto attached, respecting the "Statement as to the Past and Present Position of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses," which appeared on pages 34 5 of your issue of July 17th. It is culled from the *Stone and Ecclestone Advertiser* of the 2nd inst.

"Learning to be humble is not lost time at all." Let us "worship moral goodness, self-denial, self-sacrifice; and regard such men as the true nobility of nature whose names are interwoven with the annals of the world, while the titled shadows pass into oblivion and slumber in the dust of forgotten tombs.—Very faithfully yours,

SARAH CLAYTON,
15, Tunley Street, Stone, Staff., *Dist. Nursing Sis er.*
Aug., 1890.

"A correspondent has kindly sent us an official 'statement as to the past and present position of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses.' The statement is too long for our columns, but it gives us an opportunity of reminding our readers of the noble application Her Majesty the Queen made of the bulk of the Women's Offering to her on the occasion of her Jubilee. With great nobility and that marked wisdom, which the nation has again and again found in its sovereign, the Queen has devoted £70,000 to an institution for promoting the nursing of the sick poor in their own homes. The invaluable service which trained Nurses can afford is now well understood, and the extension of their work—especially among those who cannot afford to pay the full charges—is a means second to none for lessening suffering and saving valuable lives. The Queen could have done her humble subjects no kinder benefaction than by devoting this handsome sum to such a purpose."

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