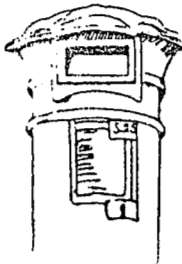


Nurses largely avail themselves; although they do not, we believe, carry out the directions given, with delicious simplicity for their especial benefit, by one advertiser who enjoins them "never to walk down a ward without previously rubbing" some of his particular ointment into their feet. The spectacle of shoeless and stockingless Nurses spending their time at the extremities of wards anointing their feet, is one to make men and angels—that is to say Matrons—shudder, and is an excellent example of the lack of humour possessed by those lay journals which insert such advertisements. Nurses would be well advised to have such corns, as they may be afflicted with, removed, and neither annointed nor cut. The radical cure is the only real cure for this complaint, and to secure this relief they might with advantage consult Messrs. Gardner and Rendall, of 85, Regent Street, who are well known for their treatment of such cases. Considering that these gentlemen number amongst their clients the Prime Minister, the Bishop of London, and Sir William Jenner, it is unnecessary perhaps to say a single word in commendation of their success.



## 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.*

### PRIVATE NURSES.

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

MADAM,—I think your correspondent who wrote on the subject of "Private Nurses," must have been exceptionally unfortunate. I have found during my (nearly 7 years) experience, great kindness and consideration from most of my patients' friends. During the first part of a case the work is, as a rule, heavy, and I have frequently had less than six hours for sleep and walk; but, after a few days, some better arrangement can generally be made. One sees how far friends are capable of carrying out instructions, and I find it a great help to write out a time table, with medicine, food (kind and quantity), and any other orders received from the doctor, and request that everything, with the hour, may be entered in a book kept for the purpose. I generally say, "Please call me if you don't get on all right," but find most people take pride in managing alone. I always ask for tea and bread and butter for the night, and frequently find an addition of cake, sandwiches, &c. I consider myself absolute mistress (under the doctor) in my patient's room, but I do my best not to run counter to any member of the household, and find that by giving way in small matters, in big ones I generally work my will without opposition. Of course, patients will sometimes be faddy, and want rubbing, &c., done, which can comfort nothing unless it be their minds, but a few sympathetic words, or a new "remedy," will often work wonders. As regards recreation, I get a *variety* of read-

ing, as most houses can produce a few books, in accordance with the taste of the occupiers, and have had some lent me by friends outside the household. Failing both these supplies I get a book or two from a lending library. Sometimes one is able to do fancy-work, or make a new set of aprons, and I generally have some knitting or simple woollen crochet for such times as I am obliged to sit away from the light. Then letters can be written with pencil even when pen is not possible. Many, too, are the interesting conversations I have had with convalescent patients, for nearly everyone can talk well on his favourite subject, though I must confess it is sometimes difficult not to get excited if the Nurse sees the other side. I have frequently been away for change with my patients, and seen miles of lovely country out driving. I have worked nearly six years out of seven on my own account, so can take as much holiday as I like when I leave a case, but I frequently go from case to case when wanted. Living in the country, I generally take a run up to London when I need a little change. I have often had great help from the doctor with regard to proper rest, etc., and I feel sure that even those who do not think of these things would help the Nurse if appealed to. Of course, one has a much easier time in some houses than in others, but a little tact and adapting oneself to the ways of the house will do much to smoothe matters. For instance, I avoid, whenever possible, special meals for myself. I should resent being "employed" with odds-and-ends for patients' friends, though, of course, it is often a pleasure to return little kindnesses, and shopping, for instance, often give an interest to an otherwise aimless walk.—I am, yours faithfully,

"DORIS."

### MASSAGE.

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

MADAM,—I have read Mr. E. Luke Freer's letter on the above subject in last week's issue of your most valuable paper. I take it that a free discussion is permitted in the columns of our Nursing paper, to those who have at heart the standard-raising of their chosen subject, for the sole benefit of their suffering fellow-creatures. In all ages and in all creeds, human life has been held sacred, and means have been sought for and adopted that would tend to save life, or at least ameliorate wrong conditions, while the vital element within us has existence. Sad will it be for us should the day ever arrive when less import will be attached to the saving of life and the alleviation of all suffering. In my young days, I remember, we looked upon all doctors as our greatest benefactors, and doubtless there do exist, men, fully qualified by nature and by years of severe training, to help us when sick. Thank heaven there *do* exist men, who, ever striving after higher standards, ever seeking after the quintessence of true and genuine treatment, *i.e.*, the actual individualization of each case, throw themselves with God-given gift, with heart as well as head interest, into the careful diagnosing of each patient's ills. Happy the true nurse working for such a doctor, and happy the patient who submits to treatment by men so high-minded. These men, although not having specialised in the fine art of massage themselves, will certainly know better what persons to employ than the outside public, and this is my meaning, in order not to admit the thin end of the wedge—the public selecting for themselves—which at once throws open a very wide door to all manner of abuses, and even fatal consequences to patients. Naturally this kind of remark is relevant to the present promiscuous condition of things. I speak as one who knows, and I affirm that no person is fit to undertake the massing of human bodies, who is not physically, perfectly built for the work, *i.e.*, a person of genuine health conditions, possessing reserves of other forces, and of the last refinement in all habits of cleanliness. And to become a skilled and dexterous worker, at least a two years' training is necessary. And a doctor, only, is the proper person to instruct, one who, on the top of all his qualifications

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