

Comments and Replies.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Miss Cassandra Beachcroft, Lincoln.—Your valuable letter will appear next week.

Miss Anna L. Alston, New York.—Many thanks for letter received.

"Marion."—The meeting on the 13th is for the Members and Associates of the Matrons' Council. Nursing lectures are over for this session, but we hope to commence a most interesting series of practical demonstrations and lectures for the autumn, to be given by well-known members of the Nursing profession.

Puzzled Nurse.—You are not the only one who has experienced some little difficulty in understanding the term *ex-officio*. As the term was used in the "Echoes," to which you refer, it means that the Matrons of certain Training Schools are entitled by virtue of the positions they hold as the heads of such schools to seats on the Executive and General Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association. According to the Charter there is no limit to these members, who hold their seats perpetually. And it is only by an alteration in the bye-laws that such a change can be made; and it seems needless to again point out the disastrous consequences which would follow such a step.

Mrs. Harrison.—Most certainly it is the duty of a Nurse in attendance on a private patient to make the patient's bed. We are very much surprised that your Nurse should have informed you that it was customary for the housemaid to do so. There are still some Nurses left who have so little professional pride that they fear to jeopardise it by what they are pleased to call "menial work," but we have not before come across an instance where making the patient's

bed was so regarded. In severe cases where only one Nurse is on duty it is quite permissible to call in the *assistance* of the housemaid or some member of the family in the bed-making, as it often saves fatigue and unnecessary moving of the patient. And it is also customary, where the beds are of the old-fashioned type, large and wide, for a Nurse to ask for help. But it is perfectly unjustifiable for a Nurse to sit still and watch the housemaid perform a duty which a true Nurse is only too glad to do for her patient, especially when so much of the patient's comfort depends on the efficiency with which the bed is made.

LETTERS RECEIVED.

- A. Mrs. Andrews, London (with enclosure). Miss Anna L. Alston, New York.
- B. Miss C. Beachcroft, Lincoln (with enclosure). Miss L. Bousfield, Bournemouth. Miss Marian Brown, London.
- C. Miss Croft, London. Miss Cresswell, Durham.
- G. Mrs. Gordon, London (with enclosure).
- H. Miss Harrington, London. Miss Homersham, London (with enclosure). Miss Howell, Leicester. Miss S. Hurst, London.
- J. Miss Jewson, London.
- K. Miss King, Dublin. Miss Kinloch, Stirling.
- P. Miss H. Poole, Blackburn (with enclosure). Miss Power, London.
- R. Miss Amy Robertson, London. Mrs. Reynolds, London (with enclosure). Mrs. Rose, London (with enclosure).
- S. Miss Stevens, Manchester. Miss Storrs, York.
- T. Miss Towers, Chicago. Miss A. Trevor, London.
- W. Mrs. Ward, Nottingham. Miss C. Ware, Bedford.

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Signed

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