

Comments and Replies.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Two Members R.B.N.A.—Do not distress yourself about having returned your voting list, without placing the *ex-officio* Matrons on the list as that step will not alter the By-Law constituting the Council. It is probable that the matter will receive consideration at the Annual Meeting when you can state your views, and we sincerely hope that the opinions of the Nurses will receive the weight they deserve in their own Association.

Nurse Kirke.—The friends of private patients are often unreasonable, and we certainly think they have shown themselves so in this instance, where they object to your having eight aprons a week considering the case you are nursing. With such a case you might easily require twelve. If any further objection is made on the score of laundry, it would be advisable for you to get the Superintendent of the Institution with which you are connected to send a line to the head of the house who has made the question of your aprons so unpleasant for you.

Mrs. David.—We are glad you find our paper such a help to you. We quite agree with you that the mothers of families should take the NURSING RECORD, as it gives many useful hints with regard to health, the care of the sick and nursing politics. Thanks for your kind expressions, which are very encouraging.

Mrs. Morrison.—We do not think you were in the right with regard to your Nurse. From your description it appears you engage a Nurse from an institution to attend a case of typhoid. On her arrival you ask her if she "prefers a glass of beer or milk with her meals?" She selects beer, and now you write to suggest that private Nurses should all be abstainers. You "think it is not nice for a Nurse to bend over her patient when her breath smells of beer," and in this we quite agree; but we think if the Nurse were allowed a little time to rest after her dinner that the odour would *not* be perceptible. But it is unreasonable to propose a hard and fast rule that all Nurses should be total abstainers. Nursing is terribly hard work, and the appetite is apt to flag from constant confinement in a sick room.

Miss Ross, Nairn.—We never advise trained Nurses to come to London to work on their own account unless they are sure of plenty of medical support. There are already more private Nurses working in London than are generally necessary. We regret also that we cannot recommend your emigrating to America, as Nursing is now so greatly in favour with educated young women in the States, and the Nursing Schools are so well conducted that English Nurses are not needed. The truth is that there are still plenty of *poor* sick folks at home in our country infirmaries and districts who require the care of well trained Nurses, and we should like to know that their needs are supplied before our efficient Nurses emigrate elsewhere.

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