



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.

HOSPITAL ETIQUETTE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The Duke and Duchess of York recently opened the Halifax Infirmary, now styled the Royal Halifax, or perhaps it is the Halifax Royal Infirmary. Might I ask for information as to the usual etiquette on such occasions?

- (1) Is the Matron or Lady Superintendent seen at such a ceremony?
- (2) Is it usual to present her, or to recognise her in any way?
- (3) When wards are visited, who shows the visitors round?
- (4) Where should the Nurses stand, during the visit?
- (5) Who gives instructions to Nurses as to what they should do on such an occasion?
- (6) Are the Nurses, as a body, to be seen at ceremonies of this kind?

Yours truly,

Halifax.

INQUIRER.

[The questions raised in the above letter are of great interest, because we know instances where much disappointment has been occasioned to the Matron and Nursing staff by being thoughtlessly overlooked upon public occasions.

- (1) The Matron or Lady Superintendent of a Hospital, holding, as she does, the honourable position of Head of the Nursing Department, should be included in the Reception Committee when distinguished guests visit the Institution of which she is an officer.
- (2) The Lady Superintendent should be presented to distinguished guests by the President or other official of the Hospital who is selected to make the presentations.
- (3) The Reception Committee, including the Lady Superintendent, should accompany the guests round the wards, from which the general public should be excluded in the case of Royal visits. It is customary to permit one or more representatives of the Press to be present.
- (4) The Sister of the ward should be on duty with the Nurses working in the ward, just inside the ward door, when they should make their curtsey as the Royal visitors pass. The Nursing staff should then quietly disperse themselves about the ward, near the patients who might require attention.
- (5) The Lady Superintendent should instruct the Nurses in these details.
- (6) If possible, all the Nurses should be on duty in the various wards during a Royal or official visit. It will, naturally, give them much pleasure—especially as the order and beauty of the wards depend so greatly on their labours—and their presence enables visitors to estimate the provision made by those responsible for the nursing of the patients.—ED.]

SUGGESTIVE THERAPEUTICS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I have read, in the letter of "A Trained Nurse," with deep regret, a commendation of hypnotism in placing a patient *en rapport* with the Nurse, with a roseate picture of the patient's getting well without any "unpleasant remembrances," &c., &c. I presume this applies only to cases which are attended by medical practitioners practising hypnotism, a proportion of the profession fortunately very minute. I am sure that I voice the opinion of more than 99 per cent. of the profession in condemning hypnotic processes *in toto*. There is not one thing new in "hypnotism" (which is merely the modern name for what was formerly called "mesmerism") which I have not seen done thirty-five ago and more years ago, sometimes by ignorant showmen at penny fairs, at other times by medical men, some of whom went mentally wrong afterwards; some of whom, recognising their danger in time, abandoned all "mesmeric" or "hypnotic" alliance. The assertion that Mr. Ernest Hart has held "hypnotism" to be the "Devil's own agent" is simply a libel without any foundation in truth. I venture on this word of warning, as I have seen serious mischief follow indulgence in the mental epidemic, which has recurred at intervals, of "hypnotism" under that or other designations.

Your obedient servant,

NORMAN KERR, M.D.

1, Hamilton Terrace,
Regent's Park, London, N.W.

[We cordially agree with Dr. Kerr's views on this matter.—ED.]

SWEET LAVENDER.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Poplar Hospital for Accidents,
East India Road, Poplar, E.
August 3rd, 1896.

DEAR MADAM,—Having seen your letter in the NURSING RECORD, I am writing to say how very glad we in this Hospital should be to receive some of your lavender bags for our patients. This Hospital is situated in one of the most crowded parts of London, far away from country sights and scents, of which we should all like to be reminded by means of your lavender. It is a small Hospital entirely for accidents, containing 65 beds.

Trusting you will grant my request,

I am, Yours faithfully,

L. E. BLAND (Matron).

Sweet Lavender.

[We have communicated with the lady in question, who desires to remain anonymous, and have no doubt the lavender will be sent.—ED.]

THE GENERAL COUNCIL LIST.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—My attention has been drawn to certain statements which appeared in your issue of July 26th and August 1st respectively.

They are as follows:—

- (1) "At the Annual Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, the Chelsea Workhouse Infirmary Nurses were noticeable in large numbers." This is not in accordance with facts, as four Nurses only were present from here on that occasion.

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