

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.

RELIGIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN NURSING. To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,-Your correspondent "A Catholic Nurse " rejoices in your emphatic repudiation of any sympathy with the prejudice that is sometimes shown sympathy with the prejudice that is sometimes shown to a Nurse on the grounds of her religion, and in the same breath announces her own intolerance of "Atheists, Mohammedans, and Thugs," which seems to be somewhat illogical. The Thugs, perhaps, would of necessity be eliminated from the list of eligible candidates for probationership on other than religious grounds; but if we are to have entire equality, why is the line to be drawn at Atheists and Mohammedans? I am in a position to say that some of the latter meles I am in a position to say that some of the latter make excellent Nurses. I have been told by the principal Medical Officer of the Hospital of Mombasa that he owes his life-in a severe attack of malarial fever, during which he was part of the time unconscious, and there was no doctor to be had-to the devoted nursing of a Mohammedan boy who had been trained

With regard to the nursing of Jewish patients, your correspondent may be interested to hear that there are wards set apart for Jewish patients at the Metropolitan Hospital in the Kingsland Road. They are nursed by the ordinary Nursing staff, but the cooking for all strict Jews has to be performed by Jews in a special manner. The Hospital, when built, was ar-ranged with a view to this need, and there is a second kitchen, and I believe at the present time there is a Jewish cook.

At the time of the Passover the Jewish patients are especially strict. A large box of unleavened bread are especially still. A large box of unreavened break is sent in for their use by the chief Rabbi, and they may eat no other. The milk they drink has to be specially procured in sealed bottles from the Ayles-bury Dairy Company. The crockery used at the time of the Passover is kept in a special cupboard, locked at other times, and is only used on this one occasion in the year, and a member of the Jewish community has to be engaged to do the washing up, though I has to be engaged to do the washing up, though I believe in many Jewish families this last regulation is not insisted upon. At all events, I was told once by a general servant in a Jewish family—" They don't hardly never have one of theirselves, they loikes to have we Christian girls, cos they loikes us to learn 'em English." Whether they attain the desired end from servants of the type of the one of whose English I have given a specimen is another question I have given a specimen, is another question. I am, Madam,

Yours faithfully,

MARGARET BREAY.



STUDENTS' MIDWIFERY.

To the Editor of " The Nursing Record."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record." DEAR MADAM,—I am entirely of one mind with the article on "Students' Midwifery" in the NURSING RECORD, and am very glad that attention is being drawn to the subject. A student picks up his practical midwifery for the most part as best he may. As a rule he dislikes it, and only takes it up at all because it is obligatory upon him. He is thankful when he has attended the last of the necessary twenty cases, and joyfully turns his attention to something more congenial. And yet, directly he is qualified, this same student may at any time be called in to the most difficult case of operative midwifery, when the life of the patient will probably depend on his skilfulness. Surely there must be something wrong in the system Surely there must be something wrong in the system of training which requires so very little of him before he is qualified, and so much afterwards.

There is another subject which I should much like to see discussed in the NURSING RECORD, namely, the custom which obtains of laying infants in the coffins of adults. It may not be generally known that this is done, and I believe it is not uncommon. The custom is with some undertakers to charge the poor custom is with some undertakers to charge the poor 2s. 6d. for burying an infant if it is buried in this way, or 5s. if it has a coffin to itself. In the former case it is taken to the undertaker's shop, and kept there until he also has occasion to take charge of and bury an adult body. The two are then placed in the same coffin. The question which it appears to me needs raising is—Is the undertaker bound to certify that there are two bodies in the coffin or does he suppress there are two bodies in the coffin, or does he suppress the second certificate, and deliver up, only the certi-ficate of the death of the adult at the funeral. If so, is not a wide door opened for illegal certificates, so far as the infants are concerned? Perhaps a competent authority will give your readers the benefit of his knowledge on the matter.

I am, dear Madam, Yours faithfully,

INQUIRER.

ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL. To the Editor of " The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—The Nurses in this Infirmary read your article last week headed "Robbing Peter to pay Paul" with great interest, but when I tried to rouse them up to do something in a co-operative way, they said it was a shame, but they mostly hung back. Matron cannot take any part in protests of this sort as she is an officer working directly under the Local Government Board ; and besides, most of the Medical Officers approve of the Bill, and it does not do to go against those you have to work under. The Nurses say the deduction of salary is so small—it does not matter, as they don't intend to stay long in Infirmary work, and they are sure to get into rows if they speak. From my small experience of Nurses, I have lost patience with them; they don't care or understand anything about co-operation, and as my mother used to say, "It's ploughing with dogs" trying to make them.

Yours truly, A CHARGE NURSE.

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You can tell	it by its Delicious	Aroma.

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