

laid down, the natural deductions would be :—Because we have known some striking examples of the genus idiot who have taken good degrees at Oxford and Cambridge, let us abolish the Universities ! Because we have met some doctors holding—even M.D.'s of London—who were not brilliant, let us return to the days of the barber-surgeon and the travelling quack. Because we have known of people with plenty of capacity and natural cleverness, who had never learnt to read and write, would it not be better to altogether abolish education ? While all sensible persons will agree that the three years' system does not always produce clever Nurses, we must be in accord in feeling that, at any rate, it is an excellent precaution, and that it turns out at least, very fairly safe and sensible practitioners of the art of Nursing.

Sincerely yours,
SAFEGUARD.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

MADAM,—There is one point in the letter of "Excelsior," anent the three years' system, to which I should like to call attention. She tells us of the ease with which she, after her "nomad life" of private nursing on the basis of twenty months training, obtained "a permanent post," but she does not tell us what that post is, and to me this is the important point, and the practical part of the whole argument. Just as every boy born in the United States hopes to be President, so every self-respecting Nurse with a normal amount of ambition hopes to reach a fair position in the Nursing world. And this, I think, she cannot hope to do without real "training," and a fair number of certificates. Has "Excelsior" reached the position of, say, a Matronship at St. Bartholomew's or St. Thomas's ? And could she obtain such a post on the slender training she tells us she has had ? I venture to think not. So, without in any way entering into the point of whether a competitive system works out best in *any* profession or calling, I would merely say that, so long as certificates and degrees are the basis of a working existence, we who work must conform to those standards of comparison. I readily grant that there are many super-added qualities needed by the Nurse over and above her three years' training ; but I cannot see that a definite training detracts from these qualities any more than I can see why the absence of training argues the existence of the super-added qualities. It is always difficult to gauge the moral qualities of a Nurse, or any other individual, because these do not show on paper, they merely work out in every-day life. But in choosing a Nurse, while we have to take her better nature to some extent on trust, do not let us play the "confidence game" in its entirety. Let us be sure of something. The Philistines seek for a sign, and I must confess in choosing a Nurse I like my sign broad, clear, and definite, the sign that she has been subject to the routine, the discipline, and the application to her work which a three years' constant attendance on the sick must give her. If she happen to be a clever woman, so much the better for me, for she will be a Nurse to all intents and purposes with a six years' training, assuming that a clever woman can learn twice as quickly as a more ordinary person.

Sincerely yours,
MARION GRAY

TYPHOID FEVER IN MADEIRA.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Now that many people are preparing to leave England for the winter, I think it is well that they should be informed of the serious risk attending a visit to Madeira. Anyone who contemplates a sojourn in that lovely and fascinating island should make himself thoroughly acquainted with the condition of the water. Last season it was extremely bad, and I believe that nothing has been done since to improve it.

Typhoid fever was very prevalent in the island during the winter and spring, and one of the English resident doctors is only now recovering from an attack, which shows that there is still danger. At the end of March, and in the beginning of April, there were four deaths from typhoid in less than four weeks among the English visitors.

It must, of course, be remembered that in Madeira the visitors are few in number compared with those at such places as Mentone and Cannes.

Most of the cases were persons in excellent health, and they were probably unaware of the awful risk they ran. One fatal case was certainly traceable to drinking a glass of water.

I feel it right to call attention to the state of affairs. Naturally, no information can be obtained from the inhabitants, who are only too ready to push up any facts which would depreciate their island in the eyes of the English.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
C. A. OATES.

Gestingthorpe Hall, Essex.
September 25th, 1896.

SANITARY PAPER HANDKERCHIEFS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I am pleased to be able to give "Enquirer" the information she seeks, as to where the Antiseptic Handkerchiefs can be obtained.

The Hospital Staff of this Hospital use them at all operations, and find them most useful. They are to be obtained at Messrs. Aitken & Co., 69, Berners Street, London, and the price is 2s. 6d. per 100.

Yours faithfully,
C. M. BEACHCROFT.

Matron and Superintendent of Nursing,
County Hospital,
Lincoln.

[These paper handkerchiefs should be much more largely used in Hospital wards than they are. They are invaluable in cases of nasal, throat, and lung diseases, where expectoration and discharges are profuse, as when used they can be at once burnt. The custom of keeping the patients' soiled linen in their lockers is still common, and that washable handkerchiefs should be so kept is both a dangerous and undesirable arrangement.—ED.]

Notice.

THE Editor much regrets that several letters of interest on "Progress" and other matters have necessarily been held over for lack of space. She greatly values the opinions of the numerous correspondents, and the letters received shall appear in due course.

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