



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.

NURSING AT MAIDSTONE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—As a member of the Special Committee dealing with typhoid epidemic at Maidstone, I have been requested to write and ask you to contradict in your next issue, a statement which has appeared in many papers to the effect that our Medical Officer and the Committee are in need of volunteer nurses for our district and hospital staffs.

I am glad to say a regular supply of certificated nurses from well-known institutions has been maintained, and, therefore, there has been no need to engage independent nurses. A welcome has, of course, been given to a few, who wished to come and work among the poorest on their own resources. The Mayor, the Medical Officer, the members of the Committee, and others, have received scores of applications for engagement from all parts of the United Kingdom. These, under the pressure of our work, have remained and must remain unanswered, and while thanking them for the expression of their willingness to help us at this time, we trust that they will forgive the discourtesy they apparently have received.

Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR B. URMSTON.

1, Bower Terrace, Maidstone,
3rd October, 1897.

IS NURSING MANLY?

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I am glad "Trained in the States" has brought out the fact that no good general hospital in England has a training school for men attached; that, therefore, we have no chance to become efficiently trained in all the branches of nursing. I am of opinion that this injustice will have to be rectified, as Mr. Walshe brings out in his interview, that the demand by the public for male nurses is larger than the supply, and that demand must be met in the future. I hope you will not take sides against male nurses—as many of us read the NURSING RECORD, and agree with your sentiments.

Yours obediently,

MALE NURSE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I think that more ought to be done to encourage the better training of male nurses, as the system is a very inefficient one in our military hospitals, as you have pointed out on various occasions.

Is it true that men are not admitted as probationers or orderlies in the large general hospitals? If so, it seems somewhat unjust. I, for one, very strongly approve of men being nursed by members of their own sex, and have at present in my house a most excellent fellow, as gentle—well, as many women *might* be with advantage, and who has been the greatest comfort to me during the long and tedious illness of a dear son. Many of the offices he has to perform for his patient, would be highly improper in a young female nurse, and ought not to be permitted. I agree with your correspondent, "Lady of Justice," that nursing is manly; it requires so much courage, self-control, and patience, without which virtues true manliness cannot exist.

Yours truly,

AN OFFICER'S WIDOW.

GHOSTS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The following story, which is a true one, will, I think, interest you, during the present correspondence upon the subject of "Ghosts" in the NURSING RECORD:—

At a small farm-house, between Halton and Spilsby, standing back amongst the fields, Mr. and Mrs. W. have lived since Lady Day 1897. The house was built about 70 years ago for a shooting box.

Mrs. W. is a young woman, very superior to the ordinary farming class (small farmer). Her husband had gone to bed, and she went out before retiring to see after a cow. To her surprise, as she was ascending the stairs, a figure of an old man was at the top, bending over something in his hand. She rushed into her bedroom, and, feeling faint, she went to the washstand to get some water, but was conscious of the figure behind her, and turning round she saw him again, upon which she fainted.

She says she has seen him several times, but never so distinctly as that night—an old man with a white beard and a very big nose.

A short time ago she was washing the floor, and noticed some of the bricks were loose and uneven; she thought she would relay them with sand, which happened to be handy. On taking up one brick where there was no mortar (half the floor was laid without mortar), several bricks fell down into a hollow, and on further investigation she found a little wooden trap-door, and underneath some lime she found some bones, a ring, and some black silk. The bones were pronounced by the doctor to be human, and a woman's.

The husband, ten days after, removed some loose bricks in another corner of the same room, and found two layers of lime some inches thick between a second layer of bricks, and underneath a hollow full of bones, and a shoe. She has again seen the spirit—he is surrounded by a blue light, and she sees him in the dark best; but now she burns a light all night to prevent the apparition being visible so clearly.

The husband never sees anything, but is conscious, together with his wife, of a cold wind which always precedes him. Noises are frequent and unaccountable, and no servant will stay. People come from all parts of England to see the house, and reporters of news-

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