

Comments and Replies.

Certificated Nurse, Birmingham.—We should certainly advise you to be vaccinated before going to India, if you have not been vaccinated since your babyhood. There is generally some small-pox in tropical countries; occasional natives appear in the street with it full out upon them. There is a widespread belief that Europeans do not take native small-pox. We are inclined, however, to look upon this as an old wives' tale, the foundation for the belief being that Europeans do not contract small-pox owing to the immunity which they enjoy because they have been vaccinated. At all events, we know that in a recent epidemic of small-pox, one European developed it in a virulent form and died, and it was proved that he had never been vaccinated in his childhood.

Maternity Nurse, London.—The best babies' bottles to use are the old-fashioned "boat-shape." This necessitates holding the bottle while the child is feeding, but this ought to be done in any case. It is a very bad plan to leave a bottle in bed with a baby. When the child has finished its meal any remains should at once be emptied out of the bottle, which should be washed with hot water, and should then be put to soak in a basin of cold water until it is needed again. The teat should receive special attention. Those which are now obtainable, and can be turned inside out, are best. Thrush is a disease which is quite preventable. It used at one time to be commonly said that a person must have thrush either in infancy or upon his death-bed, and the reason for this delusion was that both infants and aged people are fed on milk diet. It is important to remember that the mouth of anyone, whether infant or adult, who is kept on milk diet, should be cleansed at regular intervals, and anointed with glycerine and borax. If this rule be efficiently carried out, thrush, the germ of which thrives in decomposing milk, will not appear.

Nurse B., Bristol.—You would find the ships of the

Messageries Maritimes Company to Madagascar most comfortable. They leave Marseilles on the 10th of each month. The second class accommodation is very good.

Mrs. P., Leamington.—We do not give medical advice. We should advise you to consult a medical man.

Ignoramus, London.—There is, at present, no independent Preliminary Training School for Nurses, but the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, and the London Hospital, Whitechapel, give preliminary training to candidates desirous of becoming regular Probationers. At Glasgow, the preliminary education is given at the pupil's own expense, and two preliminary examinations in theoretical work, anatomy, physiology, hygiene, and clinical nursing, have to be passed before Probationers are admitted to the practical ward work. At the London Hospital Preliminary Training Home, selected candidates are received for periods of six weeks' preliminary instruction before they are admitted to the wards. Paying Probationers are also received into the Home at the rate of a guinea a week. Examinations are held on the completion of six weeks' preliminary training, after which those pupils who are considered suitable are transferred to the Hospital for their final month's trial.

Nonplussed, Dudley.—We should advise you to enter another hospital as a probationer and begin over again from the beginning. It is trying for you, certainly, but a year's training will not qualify you for any good appointment, and it will be quite your best plan. To gain a three years' certificate from one training school, to do which you must begin at the beginning, will be better for you than to add two years' training on to your present experience.

Miss T. B., Bournemouth.—The American nurses are making rapid progress towards professional organization and legislation. There is a certain inevitable amount of friction in carrying through any great reform, but the nurses in the United States have avoided some pitfalls which would have been productive of discussion by observing and profiting by the mistakes into which English nurses fell.

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