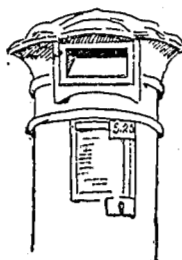


Letters to the Editor.

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 SHIPS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The question of Hospital Ships in connection with the Army Medical Department is a burning one, as all who know anything about the subject are well aware. I can only say that I conceive it to be inhuman to any sick man to bring him home in an ordinary troopship, besides the danger which he himself constitutes to the healthy. If something is not done in this matter we must assume that the soldier in health is cared for because it is important to keep him in good condition for fighting purposes; but when he is ill he must take his chance, he is not of sufficient importance to spend money on. This is scarcely the gratitude which our soldiers have a right to expect from the nation, and I do not think it is the desire of the nation that they should be so treated. Should there be anyone who is apathetic on this subject, one sight of a troopship on its way home would, once and for all, I believe, put an end to such a condition in the most callous. Think also of the sickness amongst the women and children, with never a woman to care for them. Truly, reform is a slow process, more especially when it is exclusively in the hands of the male sex.

Faithfully yours,
TRAVELLER.

SMOKING IN BED.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I am very glad to see that your correspondent draws attention to the danger of smoking in bed. The danger of such a practice can scarcely be over estimated, and I must say that I do not think we over worked nurses ought to have the additional responsibility put upon us of guarding helpless patients from the danger of fire from this cause, as well as all our other duties. It is well that probationers do not know or realise all the responsibilities which they will have when they enter upon their training, or I think that very few would venture to embark upon a nursing career. The weight of these responsibilities accumulates slowly and surely, until at last it threatens to crush us. I cannot, however, believe that the practice of smoking in bed will be permitted to any extent, or in well managed institutions. I cannot, for instance, imagine that the energetic Chairman of the London Hospital would rest content in his bed, if he knew that smoking in bed was habitually indulged in in that institution, and that any moment he might be summoned to witness the utter

destruction of the institution for which he has worked so hard, to say nothing of the cremation of the greater number of the patients.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
COMMON SENSE.

NAVAL AND MILITARY NURSING.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—It was with great interest and satisfaction that I read that we are to have the pleasure and benefit of hearing a paper read on the above subject by Mrs. Quintard at the coming Nursing Conference in connection with the International Congress of Women. Those who have read of Mrs. Quintard's work during the late war will be sure that she will have much of extreme interest to relate, and, perhaps, she will be able to stir us in this country out of the ruts of self-complacent officialism, and to convince us that our own system of Army and Navy Nursing is not so perfect but that it may be improved. If she is able to do this we shall gain much. I am also keenly interested to hear all about the proposed American Army Nursing Service from the lips of one of the women who has been working for it.

We nurses, I think, owe you, Madam, a great debt of gratitude, for if it were not for the RECORD we should hear but little of the Congress and of the arrangements made for the nursing section. Thanking you for your constant efforts on behalf of the profession.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
A CONSTANT READER.

ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I read with much interest your article in last week's issue upon artificial respiration, as the method advocated was quite new to me. I wonder whether it would be as successful if used in the case of a newly-born and asphyxiated infant as it seems to be in adults. It would be preferable to my thinking to the usual method, if it is as efficacious, on account of its simplicity. With regard to grasping the tongue, I have always understood this should be done in any case of artificial respiration, or at least that care must be taken to see that the tongue does not fall back and so obstruct or prevent respiration. I do not think it is difficult to do this if one holds it, or rather gets a helper to hold it with a piece of lint. I wonder whether any of your readers are acquainted with a method of artificial respiration which I have only seen used once, and which filled me with horror. It was used on a little premature baby. At her first confinement the mother had craniotomy performed. At the second, labour was induced prematurely. The child was born alive, but was not breathing well, and the poor fragile little thing was taken by its arms, and thrown backwards and forwards over the head of the medical attendant. I may be wrong, but I always have thought that child had a chance of life and lost it.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours truly,
A NURSE MIDWIFE.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)