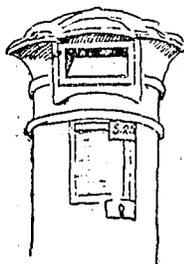


Letters to the Editor.

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.

A CHRISTMAS APPEAL.*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

North London or University College Hospital,
Gower Street, London, W.C.

DEAR MADAM,—The Committee, at this Christmas Season, take the opportunity of laying before the benevolent public a few facts, showing the widespread usefulness of this charity and the present serious state of its finances, with a sincere hope that those who read this appeal may contribute to the hospital under one or other of the following heads:—

- (1.) Annual Subscriptions, an increase of which is earnestly desired by the Committee,
- (2.) Donations to the General Funds, to be applied at the discretion of the Committee.
- (3.) Donations for Investment, thus providing a perpetual increase of the Maintenance Fund. £2,000 (in one sum or by instalments) will endow a bed or cot, which will be named after, or in accordance with the wishes of the donor.

The Committee also venture to urge the claims of the Charity upon testators.

This Hospital was founded in 1833, and during the past 66 years has treated over one million and a-half patients. In 1898 alone, 2,922 in-patients and 46,846 out-patients were treated; 300 patients were sent to convalescent homes; and nearly 1,000 surgical and other appliances were supplied to poor patients.

There is in the immediate vicinity of the hospital a large population of the poor and of the labouring classes, to whom the medical relief afforded by the hospital is an immense boon.

The debt to tradesmen at the present time amounts to £5,000.

The financial condition of the charity is at all times a matter requiring the serious consideration of the Committee, as the reliable income from all sources is only £7,500, and the necessary annual expenditure is over £18,000.

In consequence of the war in the Transvaal the unfortunate necessity has arisen for the establishment of two funds at the Mansion House, the contributions to which have reached a large total, and the Committee cannot but fear that the support of charities at home may be seriously affected thereby. The Committee trust, however, that the supporters of hospitals will not forget that their funds are at a very low ebb, and that the sick and suffering are always with us.

We would venture to point out, to clear up a misapprehension which appears to exist, that the building of the new hospital by Sir J. Blundell Maple, Bart., M.P., will in no way whatever assist the maintenance fund.

Contributions will be gratefully received by any of us—

MONKSWELL, *Treasurer.*

HENRY LUCAS,

Chairman of Hospital Committee.

WALTER BAILY,

Vice-Chairman of Hospital Committee.

Or by the Bankers, Messrs. COUTTS & Co., 59, Strand, W.C.; and the Secretary, Mr. NEWTON H. NIXON.

WARD FLOORING.*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—I wonder whether it has occurred to any nurse besides myself that the ideal hospital flooring has yet to be discovered. We seem to take what is provided for us and be thankful, but I cannot say that I think polished boards possess the desirable conditions for the floor of a room devoted to the sick. We all know that nurses take the greatest pride in keeping the polish at the highest pitch of perfection. This is so far good in that if it is not done the boards below are not proof against the entrance of germs. The other side of the question is presented when an invalid gets up for the first time. Say, for instance, a bad case of compound fracture is ordered up on crutches. Of course indiarubber caps are put on the crutches, and the patient is put into list slippers, but—I ask any unprejudiced person—is a floor polished until it shines like a looking-glass a desirable practising ground for a patient long bedridden and just recovering from a fracture? It says much for the care exercised by nurses that accidents do not happen, but their anxiety is unnecessarily great, and if some one with inventive genius would turn his or her attention to the production of a flooring which is aseptic and at the same time not slippery, a boon would be conferred on many hundreds of patients and nurses.

I am, dear Madam, yours sincerely,

AN ANXIOUS NURSE.

LODGINGS FOR WORKING WOMEN.*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—There is no doubt that very many nurses will agree with your correspondent that comfortable lodgings for working women at a price not quite beyond their purses are very badly needed. I believe that what most private nurses, at any rate, would like best is a place where they could take an unfurnished room, where they could have a latch key, and where they could get some attendance. If there were a common dining room and sitting room so much the better. Private nurses who earn £2 2s. and £3 3s. a week and "everything found," can well afford to rent a room at a moderate charge, and would many of them gladly do so for the sake of having a place to turn to which bears some semblance to a home, when they leave their cases, or several might combine, when the expense would be trifling, and the comfort great. I say an unfurnished room, because in this way the expense to the management would be much lessened, and therefore the rooms could be let at a cheaper rate than would otherwise be possible, and most nurses have some possessions of their own and like to have their own things about them. Arrangement should, of course, be made that the rooms should be kept aired while the owners are absent.

I am, dear Madam, yours faithfully,

HARD-WORKER.

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