

sex. At any rate, the new woman, as Dr. Wiglesworth terms her, is not making a new departure in entering the medical profession, but is merely taking up work laid down by the old women of not many centuries ago. I think it would be just as easy to maintain that men have usurped a calling originally intended for women, as that women have invaded a province set aside for men.

Of course, every one has a right to his own ideas of the Divine intentions; but it always seems to me strange that it is generally those people who consider themselves best acquainted with the designs of Providence who appear most afraid that Providence will not be able to carry out those designs without the help of fortifications raised by man. The laws of Nature can not be broken with impunity; sooner or later they will make themselves obeyed. If, indeed, the profession of medicine lies outside the limitations laid down by Nature upon women, they can only be failures in that profession. The most rapid way in which such failure, after fair trial, would be demonstrated is, it appears to me, by the admission of women to posts such as that just given to Miss Crawford, upon which the present controversy has arisen.

I am Madam, yours faithfully,
F. MAY DICKINSON BERRY,
M.D., B.S., Lond.,
Assist. Med. Officer to the
London School Board.

PLAGUE NURSING.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Having read your article on "Nurses for the Plague," I beg to ask if you can tell me of any book or series of lectures written on plague cases, more particularly (if there are any) those written by nurses, so that by a careful study of some such work we nurses who have never met a plague case may have some idea of what is expected of us should the dreaded disease make its appearance to any great extent amongst us.

Could you give us a description of its symptoms, and how to nurse it in the RECORD? Have the cases which have appeared in Glasgow and Cardiff differed at all from those of other countries?

Does it resemble the "Great Plague of London?" I am very fond of infectious work, and should feel it an honour to be on the roll of nurses ready to fight it, should such be drawn up (providing a trained nurse is at its head). As Cardiff is only on the other side of the Channel, and many men leave here for work there, and frequently return again to their homes, and as I am the only resident trained nurse for many miles around, I should like to learn more of this new enemy.

Being busy lately I have not noticed the papers, and so did not know of the case at Cardiff until I got the NURSING RECORD. Could I trouble you with one other question? An argument has arisen here about the flooring of wards; we cannot have the blocks, so I want maple. Is that a wood to wear well? Some suggest "red pine" as being cheaper, but I am told that splinters, which is what the present floors have done besides shrinking. They are scrubbed now, but I want the new ones polished.

I am afraid I have made my letter very long, but I trust you will be able to spare time to answer.

I am, yours truly,
HOPE DIBBEN.
Cottage Hospital, Lynton,
N. Devon, October 23rd, 1900.

[We understand that a small book on plague, by Mr. James Cantlie, is about to be published by Messrs. Cassell, price 1s. 6d. Mr. Cantlie is so exceptionally well qualified to deal with this subject that we have no doubt it will be very valuable. The pamphlet by the same author, issued by the London County Council, extracts from which have been printed in these columns, probably is the best answer to your question as to the Great Plague, and also as to the symptoms of plague generally. We do not know of any book on the subject written from a nursing point of view. There is room for one no doubt, and there is an opportunity for one of the sisters who has been in India nursing the plague to distinguish herself. Some notes of the case which occurred at Cardiff appeared in the *British Medical Journal* of October 27th. With regard to your question as to flooring, we think that if oak is unattainable teak is a good wood to use. We do not recommend red pine. In our opinion the ideal flooring has yet to be invented. Wood floors to be hygienic must be highly polished, when they are very slippery, and consequently somewhat dangerous to convalescents and busy nurses. Terazzo, again, is often impossible to be introduced into old buildings on account of the heavy concrete bed necessary for it, and it is also somewhat cold, and moreover it is liable to crack. Whoever can originate a new flooring which has none of these defects will be a benefactor to public institutions.—Ed.]

LIVE SEPULTURE.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—In reference to a letter from Mr. J. R. Williamson, which appeared in your issue of the 20th inst., re the American Society for the Prevention of Premature Burial, I beg to recall the actual fact that the said society is and can be but an offshoot of the *London Association for the Prevention of Premature Burial*, which has been in active existence for some years. I may add that on this day month (30th November) I am going to Queen's Hall, Langham Place, to read before the Association aforesaid a paper on "Trance," which, of course, bears most earnestly on this special and most vital subject of premature burial.

Any information respecting this present association I shall be most happy to furnish.

I remain, Dear Madam,
Yours truly,
J. BRINDLEY JAMES,
Examining Physician-in-Chief.
83, Bridge Road, Hammersmith, W.,
30th October, 1900.

ADDRESS WANTED.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Could you kindly inform me if it is possible to find a widow-nurse, Mrs. Hailey, who was a nurse in St. Bartholomew's Hospital in 1872? I have written there about one month ago, but they cannot give me any information concerning her. If you could kindly give any, it would greatly oblige

Yours respectfully,

(MRS.) A. MÜLLER.
20, King-street, Regent-street, London, W.
6 November, 1900.

[Perhaps one of our readers may know something of Mrs. Hailey.—Ed.]

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