

acute the cases the more exhausting they are. Two or three days' rest between cases are therefore necessary if a private nurse is to get sufficient rest and recreation. We think that a nurse should be either on hospital or private duty for not less than a three months' spell of work; she would then be relegated to graduate nurses' duty in the wards without interruption, and could thus keep herself up to date in every detail. At the same time we must all realise that the sick care very little whether a nurse is "up to date" or "smart." They love to have about them the intuitively sympathetic and quiet woman, who knows how to keep them clean and comfortable, who knows when to make herself scarce in the innermost and most sacred family circle, the woman with the somewhat out of date *maternal instinct*.—ED.]

Comments and Replies.

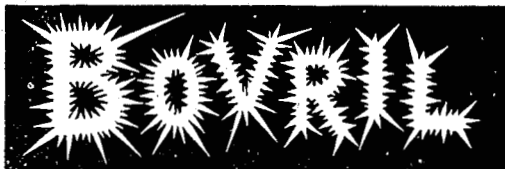
A Constant Reader.—We do not consider corrosive sublimate a good disinfectant for linen, it makes it such a bad colour. At any rate, if used, the strength of the lotion should not be less than 1 in 2000. We should advise your soaking it in 1 in 40 carbolic for 24 hours, and then boiling it in soapy water in a copper. Formalin is an effective disinfectant, which is now used for many purposes, and is, we believe, largely employed at the London Fever Hospital, Liverpool Road, N. By burning Paraform pastils Formaldehyde gas is produced by their vaporization, and a suitable sterilizer is now obtainable, which rapidly and effectively treats instruments, sutures and bandage materials, etc., and various Formaldehyde apparatus are supplied for disinfecting rooms and their contents.

Miss Pritchard.—We think you must mean "Servants of the Sick." It may be obtained from Masters, New Bond Street.

Country Matron.—We appreciate your difficulty, but it must be remembered that at present nurses have no special education to fit them to act as ward sisters; some of them have much more natural aptitude for the work than others, but it is a matter of common knowledge that many excellent nurses fail conspicuously when promoted to the position of ward sister. The fault is not entirely their own. It is the duty of the training school to provide special education to fit its pupils for the posts to which they are assigned, and natural aptitude alone will never produce the best ward sister any more than musical talent will make a musician. It should be part of the duty of those responsible for teaching the pupil nurses in the wards to observe and report to the Superintendent of Nursing as to which of these pupils shows evidence of gifts of organization and teaching faculties, and those possessing these qualities should have opportunity of studying ward management and nursing education under competent teachers. In this way nurses would be trained for the higher posts, instead of having to buy their experience when promoted to them. It must, in short, be remembered always that a nursing school is an educational organization, and its work must be arranged according. We hear complaints that ward sisters frequently regard probationers only as helpers provided to them to enable them to get through the ward work, and not also as pupils to whom they have a definite, educational responsibility. The best way to impress this upon them is to give them instruction in the special duties of their office.

Private Nurse.—Write for the Red Cross Catalogue issued by Messrs. Garrould, 150, Edgware Road, W. It is profusely illustrated, and we think you will easily be able to select what you want by means of it.

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STANLEY SMITH, *Secretary*.

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