



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 HARD CASE.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—In reporting the case of Crosbey v. Drake I was a little surprised that you did not point out how very hardly Miss Crosbey had been treated. Captain Drake's father, after encouraging his son—presumably "an officer and a gentleman"—to break his word to Miss Crosbey, expresses the pious hope that "you will allow me to see that you are not the loser on that account." It does not seem to have occurred to these men that in resigning from the Nurses' Co-operation Miss Crosbey had practically given up her means of livelihood—as, after the publicity of her case, I fear the "Co-op." would not be inclined to re-elect her, and no doubt, if she is compelled to again take up nursing, she will have the greatest difficulty to obtain an equally remunerative position. Surely, if professionally they have done so much to ruin Miss Crosbey's professional career, the Drake family should be compelled to pay damages. I do not know the lady, but deeply sympathise with her.

Yours truly,

A WORKING WOMAN.

[We expressed no opinion on the case of Crosbey v. Drake because, to be quite frank, we are quite out of sympathy with women marrying men much their juniors, and because we cannot realise the attitude of mind which influences a woman to accept a financial solatium for wounded affections. A man behaves dishonourably—he is weak—he lies—personally we should have no further use for him. Anyway, we think a woman may be thankful to escape before marriage, rather than live to realise too late that "her doll is stuffed with straw."—ED.]

TROPICAL UNDERWEAR.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—After spending the winter in Ceylon, I find much work in arrears on my return, and am behindhand with at least one pleasure—the reading of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, so that only to-day have I seen your answer to "Traveller" in the JOURNAL for April 18th *re* nightdresses for tropical wear. I should like to give you my experience on this subject on the chance of its being useful to some of your readers, though too late, I fear, to be of any help to "Traveller."

Thresher and Glennay, of 152, Strand, W.C., sell a delightful silk mixture of their own for tropical nightwear, which is soft to the skin and light, but also expensive. Nun's veiling, as you say, is useful. Viyella is excellent for the hills and colder regions. But what I found most satisfactory, in all climates and under all conditions, was Aertex Cellular material.

It can be bought by the yard in a bewildering variety of mesh, fabric, and design, and made up as required; or ready-made garments can be obtained, which are firmly put together and well finished.

I wear cellular combinations, bodices, blouses, &c., and am even better pleased with cellular clothing for day use than with the nightdresses. It allows of free access of air, so that perspiration is rapidly dried, and it will be easily understood that the best results are arrived at when *all* the clothing is porous, not merely that next the skin. It is seldom realised how delightful and invigorating the sensation is of being able to breathe, as it were, over the whole area of one's body, instead of being stifled in flannels, starched blouses, and such like.

I have never tried the merino and natural-wool varieties of cellular under-garments, but only those of Lisle thread and cotton. It was with great diffidence I began to use these, as I am a rheumatic subject and liable to take a chill. My prejudice was intensified, too, by the fact that I had been brought up to believe "wool next the skin" was an axiom of life.

As a time while I was in England, when combinations were the only cellular clothing I was wearing, I had to take a long bicycle ride on a rough, hilly road, at full speed, in great anxiety of mind and on a hot summer's day. At the journey's end, when I changed my things, all I had on was very damp, with the exception of the pair of cellular combinations I wore next the skin, and this, as far as one could judge by the sense of touch, was quite dry. Of our party of four in Ceylon I was the only one "clothed in air" and the only one who did not suffer from chills in some form or other.

During the three years I have worn cellular clothing I have found it wear well. The cotton goods shrink in the first wash, so it would be advisable to take the precaution of buying garments amply large, or of shrinking the material before it is made up.

There are retail agents in every large town, and the Aertex Cellular Clothing Company, Ltd., 73, Fore Street, E.C., would supply a list of them.

I feel I need to make no excuse for writing at such length, as suitable clothing is so important a factor of health.

You recently had a leading article in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING on the unbusinesslike ways of nurses. Looked at from Miss Janet Hogarth's point of view, are not many of them exceedingly unbusinesslike in the matter of personal health? In her paper on "The Education of Women for Business," read before the Education Section, Victorian Era Exhibition, 1897, she said:—"It is far too little grasped by the generality of working women that their health is their capital, and that persistent over-exertion is practically living on your principal. Yet a number of girls do this habitually, and then wonder at the diminution in health which results. Thrift in relation to health is as important as any other kind of thrift, and yet it makes but a small appearance in any educational curriculum."

Believe me, yours truly,

A. S. W.

[So many nurses now visit tropical countries, either to take up permanent appointments, or when travelling with patients, that we feel sure the letter of our correspondent will be read with interest by many.—ED.]

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)