

matters in dispute should be submitted to the Local Government Board for an opinion as to who is in charge of the infirmary, and, moreover, that the nurses must be "taught not to domineer over the Guardians."

We must inform Miss Johnston that we take nothing "for granted," nor are we in the habit of forming a judgment without ample evidence before us; therefore, "what we have said we have said." There was no question, we are informed, of the nurses being called upon to accompany in the ambulance all the patients who enter the infirmary "from any part of a district covering an area of 125,150 acres," because, with very few exceptions, the patients are capable of arriving at the infirmary without such aid, but of acceding to a special request made by the dispensary medical officer of Tandragee, Dr. James Taylor, to fetch a poor woman from that place. We gather from our correspondent that the Banbridge Infirmary is undernursed, as the staff consists of only two day nurses and one night nurse to attend on 100 patients, and that any outside duty would be impossible. No doubt she is right; but in an emergency the Superintendent might have relieved one of the nurses, or gone herself to Tandragee, instead of sending the unfortunate night nurse, for whose compliance with their request the Guardians passed a vote of thanks, and which resulted in the statement made by Mr. Atkinson that "she had in consequence been subjected to a series of persecutions for the action she had taken." This the Superintendent Nurse emphatically denies. As it is too warm to argue further, we must leave the Guardians and Miss Johnston to fight it out. But we are reminded of an aphorism of a worldly-wise old Almoner of St. Bartholomew's Hospital that "there's more flies caught with 'oney nor vinegar."—Ed.]

FLOGGING IN THE NAVY.

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

MADAM,—I have been much interested in the controversy about flogging, and can state that men (those over eighteen are called men) are never flogged in the British Navy. The power of a captain to order a man to be flogged has never been done away with, and we know by Marryat's novels how mercilessly it was done. It is in the present day a dead letter. No captain would think of flogging a man now. Boys on board training-ships are caned, and so are the sons of the aristocracy at Eton, and often the young rascals deserve it and are the better for it.

Had I a son who persisted in smoking, I would give him a good round "dozen" rather than he should injure his health.

In cases of cruelty—and boys are often cruel through mere thoughtlessness—a good flogging will be a preventive. No boy who cannot stand a caning is worth the name of a boy, but is a milksop. Flogging was in vogue in both services in Nelson's and in Wellington's time, and did not prevent our men beating the French. This is a softening age, and everything that tends to soften our men and women is a bad thing, and we should guard against it, or we shall be unable to retain the glorious Empire our forefathers have built up for us.

I am, Madam,

Yours truly,
A NAVAL OFFICER'S DAUGHTER.

[We regret this letter has been written by a nurse. We know something of boys, and the most manly chap we know has never been thrashed. We once knew a little girl who excused herself to her mother for cruelty to a dog with much logic:

"When I am naughty, you whip me; Tip was a wicked hound, I whip him."

"Oh," replied the mother, "but I do not really hurt you, I only smack lightly; you have injured this poor dog and made it bleed."

"You make me bleed in my inside," the child replied.

By whatever name an assault of the strong on the weak is called, it is a cowardly action, and the human being who cannot influence those physically weaker than himself through reason and the higher moral law has no right to exercise authority at all. We shall live to see "swishings" discontinued at Eton and other public schools. Compare the tone there to-day, when boy-beating is rare, in comparison with the flogging age of Keats. To-day an Eton boy is a gentleman; in the past he was often a horrid bully and a cad.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Sister Amy C.—The Select Committee is open to the public, Room 17, House of Commons, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 o'clock; but the space is limited. The evidence will be published in Blue Book form.

Lecturer N. H.—The Safety Gold Fountain Pen is excellent, price 15s. Makers, E. Newton and Co., 63, Aldermanbury, E.C.

Miss C. F., Birmingham.—Write again when you have obtained your three years' certificate. Advise your friend not to enter any hospital for training which does not give a three years' training in the wards, as only nurses so trained are eligible for positions in the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, or for the best posts in the Poor Law service and under the Metropolitan Asylums Board. It is most unjust to ignorant probationers to send them out private nursing during their training, who are thus, if they confess the truth to the various authorities above mentioned, disqualified for rising in their profession. Candidates cannot be too careful to inquire into these matters before signing long contracts with hospitals.

Notices.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Editor will at all times be pleased to consider articles of a suitable nature for insertion in this journal—those on practical nursing are specially invited. The Editor will also be pleased to receive paragraphs, such as items of nursing news, results of nurses' examinations, new appointments, reports of hospital functions, also letters on questions of interest to nurses, and newspapers marked with reports of matters of professional interest.

Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page viii.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)