



## 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.*

#### SIR JULIAN GOLDSMID'S HOLIDAY HOME FOR NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Considering the thousands of nurses who during the past fourteen years have visited this grand holiday Home, it occurs to me to wonder why they have not publicly expressed their delight in having such an extremely nice place to visit on such very easy terms, and thus show their gratitude to the generous president, Mrs. Lionel Lucas, who has given this mansion as freehold, and to those who have studied our comfort in every detail in furnishing, and have helped to raise the funds by which it is possible to bring the Home within the means of many nurses working in positions where the remuneration is limited. I consider it a great privilege to come here—be entertained in the most charming manner, have all things provided without thought or trouble, and in luxurious surroundings, and should like my colleagues who imagine that a Home is governed by restrictive rules, to pay a visit to this beautifully-situated house, and enjoy the advantages arranged by those who sympathise with their line of work.

Believe me, dear Madam,

Yours sincerely,

12, Sussex Square, Brighton. EDITH GREENWOOD.

P.S.—Application for admittance should be made to the Matron at the above address.

#### STEWARDSHIP.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I was very much struck by a letter in the last number of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING which pointed out one way in which expenses in hospital administration might be kept down. There are many people who do not in the least realise how true are the remarks therein made. Nurses do not in the least realise, it seems to me, how much can be effected by individual care in the use of the stores and materials entrusted to them. They would resent fiercely a charge of dishonesty, yet is it honest to use those things extravagantly simply because some one else pays for them? If every nurse—probationer, Staff Nurse, Sister, Matron—would make up her mind to exercise the most rigid economy in the use of hospital stores of every kind, and enforce a careful use of them by the servants under their control, I am sure a most remarkable saving would be the result in many institutions.

In a great many cases the extravagance is simply want of thought. "Oh, the hospital pays for it. That little bit can't make any difference." I have heard it said a hundred times, and away goes a yard of lint for brass-cleaning, where rag (which may be had for the asking) would do just as well. It is the same all

through, from soft soap and soda to gauze and bandages. If the doctors and students had to pay for that cotton wool and gauze and bandages, would they use them in the reckless way they frequently do in the surgeries and casualty rooms of our hospitals? I am very sure they would not. We cannot stint our dressings, we must see that we get efficiency first and economy second; but all the same, more economy could, I am certain, be practised in this direction, for we must remember that every pound saved in the annual expenditure of our hospitals is so much gained in what may be a struggle for actual existence.

Nurses and hospital officials in general should look upon it as a question of honour, of common honesty; that there should be no waste in any department whatever, and the suggestion that every nurse during her period of training should receive instruction in the housekeeping department is an excellent one. It is the only way to make a nurse really realise what a difference good and bad stewardship can make, what large sums have to be spent on trifling things, things, that is, trifling in themselves, such as soap, matches, metal polish. "It only costs twopence. They needn't be so abominably stingy with it," grumbles a pro. whose brass polish never lasts out its allotted time. It never occurs to her that those twopences make a very formidable item in the bill at the end of the year. If, however, she has to deal with these accounts, and to assist with the stores, under, perhaps, the Assistant Matron, her eyes will open very wide indeed; and when she goes forth certificated, and enters on her career as a staff nurse or ward sister, she is far more likely to be careful with her stores, and those few months in the Administration Department will be of great value to her. Any nurse, too, who is ambitious of rising above the ranks, who aspires to being an Assistant Matron and subsequently Matron, should endeavour to pick up a knowledge of useful domestic detail—of the care of linen, the quality of meat and articles which are supplied on contract, the management of servants, laundry work, &c., the keeping of accounts, and to acquire, if she does not possess, business-like habits.

Let us all then try to remember that we are stewards, and—even the newest pro.—responsible for something in the intricate working of the great hospital machine. Let us see to it that we can give to our own consciences a good and just account of our stewardship.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

M. C. F.

#### THE PENSION FUND.

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

DEAR MADAM,—May I also say a few words about the Pension Fund? Some time ago a very sad case of a nurse, who, through ill-health, had used up her savings, and was in the workhouse, was brought to my notice. With the help of friends she was eventually got into an almshouse, but the weekly sum allowed to inmates is small, and needs to be supplemented. We collected a certain sum of money, and I then wrote to the Secretary of the Pension Fund to inquire on what terms we could take out a policy, so that I might compare them with those offered by the Post Office. He not only took the most kindly interest in the case himself, but he also induced others to do the same, so that I was able to secure a far better

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