

individuals, than in others. But it is always there, and it attaches itself to their clothing and to their habitation.

I have never heard it attributed to a lack of cleanliness, though some think it is increased by unfitting diet. Just as dogs get out of condition if they have too much meat, so the native gets an increased degree of offensiveness if he is enabled to procure meat for food. If he can get meat he is certain to eat too much of it.

It is a little hard for a "Lover of African Races" to attribute this offensiveness to a lack of cleanliness, because although the native is chiefly concerned with washing his head, and more often his hands and feet, he has the reputation for being clean in his person and in his work.

And the reputation is deserved. The native is clean as far as is obtainable in a country where water is scarce. I quite agree with the "Lover of African Races" that the anointing with oil the smooth ebony skin of the native has a decorative effect, and makes a comely native look like a fine bronze statue. And it seems to lessen the natural odour. The Griquas, who are the most refined of all natives in Africa, anoint themselves with oil and red clay, and the effect is more decorative, and, so far as I can remember, it conceals any unpleasant odour, at all events when freshly applied.

There is, perhaps, some wise physiological reason why the smell of the native is so offensive to white races.

It is a horrible thing to have to recognise, but there have been, and even now are, marriages and other unions between black and white people. The early Dutch settlers had a system of concubinage and even marriage with natives. And one hears of outcast white men who have married stalwart Kaffirs who will support them. I had pointed out to me once, to my shame, a Scotch nurse who had married a coloured man in Natal.

It may be that the smell which is inseparable from the native was designed by Nature to cause such unnatural unions to be most repulsive, but drink and vicious habits have obliterated natural feeling, and these unions do take place. In Cape Town to-day one can see an unmistakable smear of the tar-brush on members of even respectable families. It is a shameful thing to have to admit, but no one in South Africa disputes that it is so.

H. KENEALY.

ON "KELTIC'S REMINISCENCES."

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

DEAR MADAM,—I was very glad to see the letter signed E. Spencer in last week's JOURNAL. Why should a woman be so disagreeable just because she happens to be a Sister? The fact that she holds so honourable a position should make her scrupulously careful as to her own manners. Yet many Sisters seem unable to hit the happy mean. Some are "austere" and demand a ridiculous amount of personal deference, others have no dignity at all, and make such close personal friends of their subordinates that the maintenance of proper discipline is impossible. Yet others are everything a Sister should be, "God bless 'em."

M. DAVIES.

Comments and Replies.

In publishing, last week, the list of new members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, No. 1,802 was printed as Miss A. Warwick. The name should be not Warwick but Marwick.

Superintendent. — "Hospital Housekeeping," by Miss C. A. Aikens, is a book which all interested in this important branch of hospital work should have. It is published at the offices of the *National Hospital Record*, Buhl Building, Detroit, Michigan, of which journal Miss Aikens is Associate Editor. A book which should be a recognised text-book in every training school is Miss L. L. Dock's "Materia Medica," published in this country by Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 24, Bedford Street, Strand.

Tired Nurse.—Write to the Matron, Sir Julian Goldsmid's Home of Rest, 12, Sussex Square, Brighton, and ask when there is a vacancy. It is well to apply some time in advance. The charges are 21s. a week when a double-bedded room is occupied, or 25s. a week for a separate bedroom.

Nurse Perkins.—It is the nurse's duty to pay particular attention to the ears in all cases of sore throat, scarlet fever, diphtheria, or measles. Any discharge from the ear must at once be reported, as well as swelling or tenderness behind an ear, or a complaint of pain.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

All those desirous of helping on the important movement of this Society to obtain a Bill providing for the Legal Registration of Trained Nurses will find an application form on advt. page xi., or can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

Those nurses who are working on behalf of the above Society, and are endeavouring to spread knowledge as to its aims, may be glad to know that they can now obtain a Memorandum, giving briefly the reasons why Registration is necessary, from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Price 6d. for 20 copies.

Those interested in the efficient organisation of nursing should procure the Annual Report of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses from the Hon. Secretary. Six copies, post free, 7d., or one copy 1½d. It gives a brief review of the history of State Registration.

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](#)