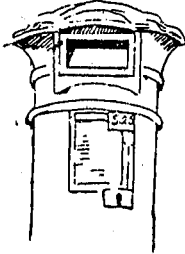


Letters to the Editor.

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.

NURSES AND CHRISTIAN SCIENCE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—It is, as you say, inconceivable that a trained nurse should allow a patient to die without attempting to secure medical aid. The position of the Christian Scientists also appears to be most illogical, for they do not hesitate to call in a surgeon to set a fracture, while they decline to permit skilled treatment to a pneumonia case. It seems, as the Coroner remarked at the inquest, in the case which you reported last week, as if Christian Scientists "believed that the Almighty was a bad physician but a good surgeon." If it is right to use means in one case why not in the other?

By all means let Christian people ask a blessing upon the remedies used; but if they neglect to use the means at hand what right have they to expect a miracle worked on their behalf? If they are out of reach of skilled assistance the position is a different one, but I fail to see how anyone can repudiate the use of expert knowledge and then expect to be cured. It seems to me a wrong standpoint to take up altogether.

Yours faithfully,

LOGIO.

"TAMED BY MARRIAGE."

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

DEAR MADAM,—Many and various are the qualifications demanded of the trained nurse, but at least it is now generally recognised that she should bring youth and health and vigour to her life's work.

It is strange to read in the wonderful "History of Nursing" reviewed in your columns last week that a medical man should ever have thought "middle age" desirable in a probationer, still more so that he considered it an added qualification that she should be "tamed by marriage."

Is that really the effect of marriage? Perhaps some who have passed through the ordeal would tell us. For my own part I have not observed it in my married friends. I rather think they set themselves to tame the opposite sex, and succeed fairly well in doing so. Perhaps half a century ago things were different, and wives were meek and tame, and—oh dear me—how dull. Did these poor tame things recover their spirits a little when they got into hospital, I wonder. If not the patients must have lived in a very depressing atmosphere, I fear. Hospitals could scarcely have been the cheery places they are at present, full of vitality, and the hopefulness of youth. I rather

think there was wisdom in the question put to those who presented themselves to have the knot tied by an eccentric parson of a bygone generation. He adjured them: "Marriage is a lottery, a blessing to the few, a misfortune to the many. Do ye venture?" Wise old man. But I have never heard that any refrained from venturing. On the whole I am glad that I have never "ventured," and am, as I subscribe myself,

AN UNTAMED SPINSTER.

We have received for publication a letter from Mr. Sydney Holland, which, for want of space, is unavoidably held over. It will appear in our issue of next week.

Comments and Replies.

Miss M. Harvey.—In reference to the use of goats' milk for infant feeding, a medical correspondent kindly writes: Goats' milk, according to Professor Rotch, has a percentage composition of: Fat 4.30, sugar 4.00, proteids 4.70, mineral matter 0.60, total solids 13.50. It will thus be seen to be considerably richer in proteid constituents than human milk. In some countries goats' milk is used extensively for domestic purposes, and goats may be seen climbing the stairs of the houses at Naples in order to be "milked on the landing." For children goats' milk offers no special advantages and with some it is likely to disagree. It is difficult to obtain fresh and good in cities. Now that scientifically-directed means are available for providing a milk suited to the requirements of infants of almost any age, in the American method of "milk prescriptions," a resort to goats' milk must be considered crude, empiric, and undesirable. If we remember rightly the late Baroness Burdett-Coutts used to keep a herd of goats. It must be remembered that it has been proved that goat's milk is capable of conveying the infection of Mediterranean and other fevers. By the prohibition of its use, it seems likely that "Malta fever," from which many of the garrison were formerly invalided, will be altogether stamped out. Goats' milk can be procured from Mrs. S. H. Verini, Hope Villa, Birkbeck Road, Beckenham, Kent.

Miss Evans.—Niceity in nursing is a most important thing to aim at. A rough and ready style of work is particularly inappropriate in connection with anything to do with the care of the sick. It is a good plan when working with a nurse trained in a different institution from yourself to observe her methods. Each school has special points in nursing practice worthy of note, and much may be learnt in this way.

Maternity Nurse.—"The Nutrition of the Infant," by Dr. Ralph Vincent, published by Messrs. Ballière, Tindall, and Cox, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, W.C., price 10s. 6d., is an admirable book, which deals with Infant Feeding. The "Century Invalid Cookery Book," by Miss Mary A. Boland, published by Messrs. T. Fisher Unwin, Paternoster Square, E.C., price 3s. 6d., is an Invalid Cookery Book specially useful to nurses.

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