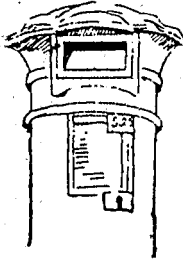


Letters to the Editor.



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.

THE USE OF PURE ANIMAL WOOL.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have been very interested to read the article in this week's Journal on "The Use of Pure Animal Wool," and shall certainly try to use it where possible. I have always felt that the ordinary Gamgee and absorbent cotton wool of commerce were not satisfactory materials for preserving warmth, although practically I think one finds the latter *is* absorbent, as it claims to be, in contradistinction to the commoner variety known in hospitals as "brown wool," which is not, and it is the former wool of which Gamgee tissue is made, so that it *should*, and I think does, absorb perspiration. This being so, of course Gamgee jackets require to be removed periodically and aired—dried would perhaps be the more correct word—but the dampness is internal. I do not think that when removing a Gamgee jacket from a patient that I have ever found the inside—which I take to mean the side next the patient—a "wet sopping mess."

Nevertheless, it is good to know of a wool which is warm as well as absorbent. As a chilly person myself, I sympathise with those patients who still feel cold when supplied with the regulation number of blankets, and even with a hot water bottle, and according to routine rules "ought to be warm" but are not. A use to which "Thermo-laine" might be put with advantage is, I should say, to line ordinary bed jackets, for many chronic invalids feel the cold even when wearing flannel jackets, and quilted silk jackets lined with down are only within the means of a limited few. In incurable homes, for instance, I should think animal wool would be invaluable, and for the tiny babies who depend on incubators for the warmth which keeps them alive, also.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
C. M.

MAULED BY A LION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The account of injuries recently inflicted on Ralph Gardener by a captive lion at the Crystal Palace calls for some comment from those who see two sides to every question. One sympathises with the man, but horrible stories of this kind come as a shock to rouse the public conscience on behalf of noble animals undergoing imprisonment for life for no fault of their own. Surely the time has come when the morbid, vulgar, selfish, and cruel instinct which draws people to stare at wild beasts behind bars should be discouraged?

These shows are a mistake, and cannot fail to demoralise all complacent spectators, especially the young. Yet a stream of "latest additions" is continually pouring into the Zoo, and among them, the other day, was an unfortunate eagle from the Philippine Islands. Disgraceful! What a fate for the monarch of the sky—just at the moment when men are tasting the first bliss of mastery over the air!

In a fine essay entitled "A Visit to the Zoological Gardens," Leigh Hunt, writing in advance of his age about a century ago, says of imprisoned eagles: "It is monstrous to see any creature in a cage, far more any winged creature, and, most of all, such as are accustomed to soar through the vault of heaven, and have the world under their eye. Why can we have Acts of Parliament in favour of other extension of good treatment to the brute creation, and not against their tormenting imprisonment? At all events, we may ask the question whether a great people, under a finer aspect of knowledge and civilisation than the present, would think themselves justified in keeping any set of fellow-creatures in a state of endless captivity, their faculties contradicted, their very lives turned into lingering deaths?" After a hundred years, are we still not "great" enough, and is our knowledge and experience still not deep enough, to make us detest such barbarities?

Faithfully yours,

EDITH CARRINGTON.

18, Miles Road, Clifton, Bristol.

Notices.

RULES FOR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

PRACTICAL POINTS.

We offer a Prize of 5s. for the best Practical Point paragraph of from 100 to 200 words, to reach the Editor, at 20 Upper Wimpole Street, London, W., not later than Saturday, January 15th inst.

Paragraphs sent in, other than that to which the prize is awarded, and thought worthy of publication, will be paid for at the usual rates.

THE NEATEST NURSE PHOTOGRAPH.

We offer 10s. for a photograph of a nurse in uniform, neatness to be the test of excellence, with permission to publish the same. The photographs must reach the Editor not later than Saturday, January 22nd. Photographs sent which do not win the prize will be returned.

AN ARTICLE ON A PRACTICAL NURSING SUBJECT.

We offer £1 10s. for an article dealing with Practical Nursing of from 1,400 to 1,500 words, to reach the Editor not later than Saturday, January 29th. By arrangement with competitors articles other than that to which the Prize is awarded may be selected for publication.

Each competitor must enclose her name and address in full.

OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

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