

THE NIGHTINGALE CHAIR OF NURSING.

The following letter has been addressed by Miss L. L. Dock, Hon. Secretary of the International Council of Trained Nurses, to Sir Henry A. Miers, F.R.S., Chairman Executive Committee, Household and Social Science Department, King's College for Women, London, in reply to his statement which was inserted in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING on the 20th of February last, and we have been requested by Miss Dock to publish it:—

DEAR SIR HENRY,—Seeing your letter in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for February 20th, I beg leave to communicate with you on one or two points raised in that letter.

My use in some former article of the word "foundation" may no doubt have been technically slipshod, and I probably used it as a convenient term or noun, without thinking of its exact meaning, to your mind, in a nursing sense.

I am sure this was so, though I have not my articles at hand, because I have been aware that the St. Thomas' plan was to give scholarships to nurses for certain Courses at King's College, and in my letters and articles on the subject in the American and British Journals of Nursing I have emphasised this fact, and have pointed out that it by no means satisfied our wishes or met our ideal, which was and is to establish in some suitable place a Department of Nursing and Health, with a Professor in the Chair (a full professor, not an assistant), who shall be also a fully trained and highly qualified Nurse.

Such a Department, Chair, and Professor we have here at Columbia University, as you know.

May I say to you quite frankly that my complaint is that St. Thomas', in deciding on its scholarships, gave publicity to its plans at such a time and in such a way that our larger and more urgently needed plan for advanced education for nurses was for the time being at least thrown into confusion.

I know this, and know that it was intentionally and deliberately meant to forestall and, if possible, prevent any such plan being carried out by nurses themselves.

Yet in this country the establishment of the Department at Columbia was thought of, carried out, maintained, and guided by nurses, and Mrs. Jenkins gave her endowment on the advice of a nurse.

We, internationally, feel justly incensed and aggrieved over this incident, yet remain fully determined to have, some day, our ideal fulfilled.

I remain, very truly yours,

L. L. Dock.

Miss Dock's letter makes the whole case perfectly clear. It adds one more ugly page to the history of nursing in England. Let us turn it down.

PRACTICAL POINTS.

The Destruction of Body Parasites.

Mr. Langford Moore, writing to the *Lancet*, from St. Bartholomew's Hospital, says:—

"Since last October I have had to prepare many remedies for the destruction of body parasites, which, owing to the enforced conditions of life in the trenches, have severely infested our soldiers. The drugs used have been the usual ones: sassafras, eucalyptus, aniseed, and various dusting powders which owe their efficacy in most cases to their volatility. The antiparasitic action of mercury has long been recognised, but its method of application not being idealistic, experiments were made to devise a more suitable and cleanly method of exhibition. The following has given such satisfactory results as to warrant its publication:—

℞ Hydrargyri ammoniati ..	3	i.
Zinci oxidi	3	ss.
Magnesii silicatis	3	ss.
Fiat pulvis.		

"The powder is thoroughly applied to the infested areas on a lint pad or by medium of the pepper-box arrangement suggested by Mr. J. F. Briscoe, in the *Lancet* of February 20th; being non-greasy the necessity for shaving the infested part is avoided. The mercurial salt being very slowly ionised, and the astringent and dehydrating effect of the oxide of zinc inhibiting absorption, no toxic effects are produced, but an increased localised action is obtained. The French chalk is added to increase the diffusibility of the powder on application, making it closely resemble a toilet powder. The absence of fatty acids is much appreciated by the patients, staining of the clothes being quite avoided.

"I have seen the powder applied to suppurating wounds infested with vermin, with the result that in two days both parasites and ova have disappeared and the patients' mental and physical condition have been considerably improved. I have repeatedly tested the saliva and urine of patients undergoing the treatment, and have not been able to find the slightest evidence of the general absorption of the mercury, nor have I seen that painful dermatitis produced, which so often follows the application of a mercurial salt; the zinc oxide probably corrects any tendency it might have to do so. I would urge the value of the powder from a prophylactic standpoint also; dusted on the vests, pants, shirts or body, it is inimical to the development, not only of vermin, but of other organisms to which our virile defenders are exposed."

If Milk should Catch.

If the milk should "catch" at the bottom of the saucepan when making milk foods there is no need to throw it away. Place the saucepan in cold water for a few minutes, then without scraping the bottom transfer the milk to a clean saucepan. It will have lost the burnt flavour.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)