

REPORTS, DESCRIPTIONS, &c.

SIR WM. BURNETT'S DISINFECTING FLUID AND POWDER.

THE late Sir William Burnett's discovery on the value of Chloride of Zinc as a disinfectant is calculated to prove a great blessing. Burnett was the pioneer of a series of men of science, whose mission it was to control plagues and pestilences and stamp out contagious diseases.

Awful as a visitation of cholera or an outbreak of fever is, it is a consoling fact that such are now controllable. Doubtless our readers are acquainted with the history of the great pestilences of the world. Ignorance and dirt are the factors of pestilence. In the present progressive state of science we may hope that cholera, small pox, and other allied virulent and fatal diseases may at no distant epoch become things of history.

We think we are justified in saying that the late Sir William Burnett may be ranked as one of the benefactors of the human race. It has been successfully demonstrated over and again that the solution of Chloride of Zinc (Burnett's Fluid) has a controlling power over infectious diseases. It arrests the mephitic vapours so favourable to typhoid and cholera. It is destructive to all kinds of fungoid growths, and germs are annihilated immediately they come in contact with the fluid. Having no disagreeable smell, it is particularly suitable for the sick room; and being inexpensive, has, we think, everything to recommend it. We may add that, at a representative meeting of medical gentlemen in Toulon, when the cholera was raging a few years ago, some of the most eminent men present strongly advocated the use of Burnett's Fluid in preference to any other.

CORRESPONDENCE.

** We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our Correspondents. Brevity and conciseness will have first consideration. See notices.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—May I venture to add a few words to the remarks by an "Ex-Housekeeper," in the last issue but one of your paper.

I fully agree with her that more practical knowledge is required by the "housekeeper" in public institutions; but further, I consider that it is part of the duty of every matron or superintendent of nurses to take a personal and active interest in the domestic economy of her nurses' meals.

It seems to be a matter which is very much neglected, and, in the present day of growing agitation for the advanced training and higher status of nurses, it is a matter which I think has very much to do with the moral and higher tone of, at least, our infirmiry nurses' homes.

I speak from personal experience, having for some years been connected with one of the largest Poor Law Infirmaries in England; and it is ever a source of much pleasure to look back upon my first efforts, with the able assistance of my superintendent, to promote the

comfort and well-being of our nurses, to elevate and ennoble the tone of our home. And, though I well remember passing many sleepless hours during the early days of my duties as home sister, or housekeeper, I was more than repaid by the success which attended our efforts, chiefly owing to the fact that we each took a personal care and interest in this branch of our work.

With little or no extra expense, with proper management—and, I frankly admit, sometimes a great deal of trouble—much may be done to improve the uninteresting and uninviting appearance of the nurses' dining-table; where, as a rule, six days out of seven the dinner consists of a not by any means perfectly cooked joint of beef or mutton, varied perhaps on the seventh by an equally unappetising "stew" or "pie"; where, day after day, the dinner is served—only to be left, and, alas! wasted; and the nurses—hot, tired, and unrefreshed—return to their wards, and are compelled to supply themselves with other food; or in many cases fall victims to various forms of nervous disorders, consequent upon—what reads badly, but is nevertheless perfectly true—insufficient and irregular feeding.

Trusting I am not trespassing too much upon your valuable space—I am, sir, yours, &c., A SISTER.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—I should be very glad if you would kindly give me any information you can about nursing institutions connected with hospitals in Kimberley or Natal; also if you can tell me of any body or any institution sending out nurses to those places, as I am very anxious to go.—Believe me, yours truly, M.

[We hope to be able to supply the requisite information next week.—Ed.]

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—I see in a recent number of the *Nursing Record* that you are about to consider the very important question of "Dress for Nurses." I beg therefore to send you a copy of a paper I wrote three years ago, and which I venture to hope has drawn some attention to the subject.

May I also add, in reply to the letter on "Nursing in Small Homes," that such work as is there described is at the present time dealt with by the District Nursing Association, begun three years ago at Kensington, being a branch of the Central Home in Bloomsbury Square, for nursing the poor in their own homes. We think ourselves justified in including under this term all or any who have not the means of paying the expensive nurses sent out by institutions; and, be it remembered, for not less than a week; at any rate, not for daily visits. Our thoroughly trained lady nurses have visited, once or twice a day, many cases of persons living in lodgings, flats, or boarding-houses, for whom no other nursing was possible, besides the large class of tradespeople who have hitherto received no such help.

Of course we receive payments according to the means of those thus nursed who would not be willing to accept it gratuitously, while it would be freely given to those who could not pay, at least at the time of sickness.

I am quite convinced that, when once the system of *daily visits* has become known, that it will be extended

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)