

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

*** Will Publishers always kindly append Prices, when sending Publications for Review.

A MANUAL FOR HOSPITAL NURSES AND OTHERS ENGAGED IN ATTENDING ON THE SICK. By Edward J. Domville, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. London: J. & A. Churchill, 11, New Burlington Street, W. Sixth Edition. 2s. 6d.

We strongly recommend this useful work as the textbook *par excellence*. It is a guide which all interested in nursing should possess and read carefully.

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,—In an article on the Pension Fund, I see that the *British Medical Journal* is good enough to interest itself in the question of the small salaries paid to the Nurses of the London Hospital, remarking upon the extra expenses devolving upon the Nurses there, each of whom has to provide herself with washing. The article goes on to say, "we cannot believe that the London Hospital Committee, the Chairman of which is also the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of the National Pension Fund for Nurses, will consent to permit the present unsatisfactory and unjust arrangement to continue. We trust that it will promptly consent to pay its Nurses at any rate as much as is paid to those who labour in poor law infirmaries." As a late London Hospital Nurse, I thoroughly endorse the sentiment, although I consider it wiser to "wash dirty linen at home," and that the question is one which it would have been more delicate for the Matron to bring to the notice of the London Hospital Committee, rather than that influence should have been brought to bear upon it through the medium of the public press. I know also that many of my late colleagues fail to perceive the connection between their clean linen and the Pension Fund, and strongly object to their domestic arrangements being thus thrust before the public. If, however, the London Hospital Committee "promptly consent" to do as they are told, and increase the Nurses' salary, I hope pressure will not be brought to bear upon them (as the article seems to imply) to contribute the additional salary towards the Pension Fund—whether they desire to do so, or not—or the £800 per annum, the lowest estimate for providing 200 nurses with washing, will hardly be utilised for the purpose for which it is ostensibly granted.—Yours, etc.,
NURSE VICTORIA.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—I feel sure the statement made by "Thorough" in your last issue, that Mr. H. C. Burdett, the founder of the Pension Fund, is part

editor of the *Hospital* newspaper, must be a useful item of news to many Nurses who have read the articles concerning the Pension Fund, printed in its columns, under the impression that, like the *Lancet* and the *Nursing Record*, it was a thoroughly unbiassed paper. I, for one, own that I have been quite mystified concerning the fund; reading as I do both the *Hospital* and the *Record*, I usually end with the sensation of having been on a see-saw. The fact that Mr. Burdett is the editor of *The Hospital* accounts, I suppose, for the "alienated and offended" attitude of that paper with regard to the British Nurses' Association. I have often wondered why all mention of the progress and success of this association, which is of the utmost importance to the Nursing Profession, has been so studiously avoided in the "Nursing Mirror."—Yours faithfully,
ENLIGHTENED.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—I am glad to see "A Charge Nurse" exposing, in her sensible letter, the fact which has been kept so dark in connection with the Pension Fund—namely, that the premiums for male hospital officials are nearly *one-sixth less* than those which Nurses have to pay. Great indignation has been felt and expressed by my Nursing staff with regard to this most unjust arrangement, and until it is altered I feel sure none of them will join the Fund. Inspired articles in interested papers will signally fail to "restore confidence" so long as the National Pension Fund persists in assuming a title to which it has no right, and Nurses have the just cause of complaint alluded to above.—I remain, yours truly,
A COUNTRY MATRON.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

SIR,—Having read with interest the "Competitive Essay" in your last number of the *Nursing Record*, relative to the management of a "properly organized ward of thirty beds," may I venture to suggest one or two slight alterations, which the experience of more than six years of hospital work has suggested to me, as an alleviation of the over fatigue from which Nurses suffer, more especially during their year of probationship? In the first place, why should Nurses have to sweep floors? I know they do, in many of the best hospitals; but it is not necessary where a ward-maid is kept for each ward. Of course different arrangements are necessary in those hospitals where, from economy, or other reasons, one maid or scrubber does the rough work of two or three wards. In my opinion, floors are as much the ward-maid's work as grates, and if she begins her work at 6 a.m., she will have ample time for both before 9 a.m. The work to her is much less fatiguing than to a tired Night-nurse, who has probably hardly sat down for an hour during the whole night, and is often fagged out before the heavy morning work begins; or to a Probationer, who, perhaps, has never done household work, and finds the dusting and polishing of tables, window-ledges, and washing of lockers quite enough for her unaccustomed muscles. Then, again, though the ward-maid's work is heavy in the morning, she has often more leisure to rest in the afternoon, while

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)