

"Like the monkeys, the Ainu cannot concentrate their attention, and they are easily wearied. . . . They show no inquisitiveness and no wish to be taught the use of anything new and unfamiliar."

They don't seem to have any particular form of religion. The Ainu idea of "soul" is associated with "breath" or "life," and as for the resurrection of the body and the future life of the soul, they never dream of it, but Mr. Landor says we must not argue—

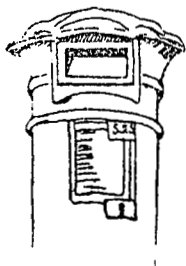
"That because they have no religion the Ainu are bad people. They are far from it. They are decidedly not moral, for nothing is immoral among them. The Ainu must be considered more as animals than as human beings. When we speak of a dog, we do not ask if it is a moral dog, but only if it is a good dog. The same can be said of the Ainu."

The marriage laws in the Ainu country are very simple; when a hairy young man takes a fancy to a hairy young maid they set up house together, and if the Ainu feels that he would like another wife he marries again, but he is too shrewd to take the second wife to live with the first, and as long as the females do not live under the same roof they are all happy together. The wife does not take her husband's name, for no Ainu has a family name.

"For instance, *Una-charo*, a man's name, means 'Sprinkled Ashes,' and *Yei Ainu* 'Dangerous Ainu,' etc. *Neoback* 'Who Burst-three-times,' and so on, each person having a different name, which is nothing more than a nick-name. When the girl gets married she does not drop this nick-name, though sometimes she is called Mr. So and So's wife. Supposing that Miss Burst-three-times were to marry Mr. Sprinkled-ashes, she would be Mr. Sprinkled-ashes' wife and would still be called by her maiden name Burst-three-times."

Mr. Landor thinks that as a race the Ainu will soon be extinct (they are incapable of civilisation, and the study of anthropology teaches that races incapable of civilisation sooner or later die off the face of the globe). Therefore, it is to be expected that soon, very soon, in Yezo and the Kuriles, nothing will remain of the Hairy Ainus but a faint recollection and tradition.

A. M. G.



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.

PRIVATE NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

At the present time much is being done to forward the advancement and higher education of Nurses. One point, however, seems, to a great extent, to have escaped attention, namely, the desirability of a qualifying course for those taking up private work after their Hospital training is over. Surely it is a Special Branch, and needs knowledge and experience not to be gained in the wards of a Hospital. Like a foreign language, it requires to be taught, however

familiar to a Nurse her mother tongue or routine work may be. Moreover, to carry the analogy further, many, even educated people, have a distinct inaptitude for acquiring foreign languages, and, equally, many excellent Hospital Nurses are, and always would be, absolutely unfit for the care of private patients. Half the prejudice against trained Nurses still existing, has had its foundation laid by the behaviour of unsuitable Nurses in private houses. Want of judgment, want of tact, routine work, dictatorial manners, an unwillingness or inability to adapt themselves to the varying circumstances of different households, and the idiosyncrasies of individual patients, besides a want of refinement, and an utter absence of *finish* in details of their work, mar, only too often, the valuable aid of the trained Nurse, at the present day, in England. In America, to judge by the character of the lectures in the representative Nursing magazine, *The Trained Nurse*, much greater stress is laid on the teaching of Nurses for private work. The tone inculcated must be of infinite use to both Nurses and patients in their future relations with one another. Instead of being, in some measure, despised, private Nursing in America seems to stand on quite as high, if not a higher, footing than Hospital work. Whilst still training, a Nurse's work, in future, when in charge of private patients, is evidently distinctly kept in view, and in the lectures given she is prepared for it as carefully as in any other branch of her calling. English doctors and experienced private Nurses know, only too well, how badly many Nurses stand the test of private work. The question arises. Would it not be possible to institute lectures by medical men and "experts" in private Nursing, and it might be individual teaching also, for Nurses about to undertake private work?

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MATRONS IN COUNCIL.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I am much interested in the letters week by week of "Matrons in Council." I am not a Matron, only a Private Nurse—a long way down the ladder! Nevertheless, I should like to have a little say in the matter if I may. When I entered Hospital, nearly 8 years ago, I knew absolutely nothing of theory. My ignorance was a trouble to me, which makes me entirely agree with those Matrons who advocate candidates having a slight knowledge of Physiology, Anatomy, and Elementary Chemistry. It is certainly best for the Nurse to have acquired something of those subjects before she begins the hard work of a Probationer. The work is hard, and there are many little ugly bits, but there is such a constant unfolding of surprises, always something new to see, always something to learn, that the hardness and the ugliness somehow slipped out of sight in my probationer days. A woman who takes up Nursing must be content to consign herself to the background—thinking of others, forgetting herself completely, working cheerfully and brightly, learning the lines of prose and poetry set before her, blending the stern realities of life with the many gleams of sunshine that must intervene, taking in the technical and practical, yet studying the character of the strange mixture and endless variety of human nature one meets in Hospital wards. Education goes on most certainly. Some women are bright, quick, and clever by gift of nature; others are slow, dull and stupid, but all yield to cultivation. How charming is a bright cheerful voice, tempered with gentleness! Even a harsh voice can be softened and cultivated. Then again, a quiet gentle manner is most comforting to anyone weak and suffering; surely that also can be cultivated. It is the little things make up the happiness or misery of life generally. Since I have been Private Nursing, I have met what I consider beau-ideal Nurses; *but*, I have also met women unworthy the name—clever women they must be called, good linguists, well read, and well up in technical knowledge, but unpractical, tactless, and flighty. Why is that so? Is it the fault of the

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