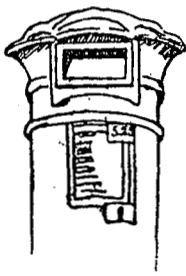


would have had with regard to Church questions, and probably Colonial ones! Granville advises me to have done, and abide by the late Lord Lansdowne's advice: 'When you are in the dark, stand still.' 'Then you will never get into the light.' 'I beg your pardon, the fog will disperse.'

The letters are exceedingly readable, and though full of merry mischief, are never malicious or spiteful.

Next week I hope to review Mrs. Humphrey Ward's new novel, "Marcella." It ought to be of special interest to Nurses, as part of the heroine's life is spent in Hospital work.



## 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.*

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

MADAM,—I am delighted to see from this week's NURSING RECORD that practical steps have been taken to constitute an educational department in connection with the Royal British Nurses' Association. And the course of lectures arranged appears to be of an interesting character. But, seeing no intention made of examinations to be held at the conclusion of the different courses, I write to suggest this important addition. As a lecturer with many years' experience, I have come to the conclusion that lectures without a subsequent test, although they often serve to arouse great interest, do nothing permanent in the way of education. Women's mental work is so apt to be 'scrappy' and superficial that it is only by helping them to arrange their intellectual wares in a systematic way that we can hope to raise the standard of attainment.—Yours truly,  
ANNESLEY KENEALY.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

MADAM,—Allow me to suggest to every reader of the NURSING RECORD who is interested, and who believes that the paper is serving the best interests of the Nursing profession, a little plan by which I have obtained many permanent readers. Each week when I have quite finished with my number, instead of consigning it to the waste basket, or storing it away to help in the accumulation of dust and cobwebs, I put it in a wrapper and send it to someone who is a Nurse, or is interested in Nursing and Hospital work; thus bringing it under the notice of a large class of people at home, in the colonies, and abroad who otherwise would entirely miss the opportunity of seeing this charming little paper. There are hundreds of women—not Nurses—who are deeply interested in Nursing and Hospital matters, and are most enthusiastic readers of the RECORD.

HALFPENNY WRAPPERS.

[We beg to thank our kind correspondent for her help. Such letters are very encouraging, in the difficult task of providing press representation for Nurses. We commend her practice to others of our readers, as we earnestly desire

that Nursing politics should be understood by the general public, who, we are glad to find, take a deeper interest in the subject, equally important to themselves as it is to Nurses.—ED.]

## CHARLATANISM IN MASSAGE.

*To the Editor of "the Nursing Record."*

MADAM,—An eminent physician said a short time ago, "If massage were faithfully, honourably, and scientifically carried out, it would have a splendid future before it." Yes, a splendid future as the finest adjunct to medical treatment, and the very best of all tonics. But, sad to say, it is most notoriously the fact that the fine art of massage is being dragged deeper in the mire of ignorance and abuse day by day. There exist hundreds of people—men and women calling themselves masseurs and masseuses—who, lacking the gift, presume to bring to bear their horrid manipulations on the bodies of patients in utter ignorance of the delicate physical machinery, the various organs, and possible disease of those organs, they work upon. Whether these be in healthy or unhealthy condition is matter of supremest indifference to these impostors in the massage field. As long as they procure their ill-gotten gains, pummel the poor already tired bodies about, and to their own hearts' content, is all of satisfaction they need. No straightforward honest questioning exists, as, for instance—Have you seen your doctor? What does he say as regards the fitness of your state for massage treatment? Has he, with his trained and skilled knowledge, diagnosed internal conditions, etc.? For the difficult art of massage is by no manner of means a universal remedy. In fact, to some folks one might say—"What is one man's meat is very clearly your poison." Hence the absolute necessity for medical men having the practice of massage under their own supervision; and although not skilled operators themselves, having sufficient knowledge of their subject to differentiate between the skilled and the unskilled worker, the physically fit and the physically unfit, the mentally fit and the mentally unfit, and also recognising the fact that to be a perfect operator one must possess the very rare gift to successfully apply massage to the exact needs of the case, just as in any other art. To be a great singer, a great painter, a clever linguist, a delightful conversationist, etc., it is conceded *one is gifted* in each of those branches of art. This gift is trained, and we are all thankful for, and appreciative of, those talented and great artists. They amuse us, they instruct us, they elevate us, for the ring of the true metal is there. So the true artist-masseuse knows by gift, by intuition, by training, how to apply and modify her art to the individual needs of each case she undertakes to treat. But to return to the doctor and his responsibilities. In his hands alone rests the task of recommending suitable persons for his cases, and each person must be suitable for the special case entrusted to her. The public are entitled to great care and discrimination being exercised by doctors sending out masseuses to private cases. They cannot be too exacting as to the qualifications of those they employ. Now-a-days, unfortunately, as long as a person calls himself or herself a masseur or a masseuse, this is all-sufficient; but those behind the scenes know full well that the very widest difference exists between men and women working at this art. For instance, you get an individual, with no knowledge of hygiene, of sanitary conditions, of the theory of things, working away in a crippling, unscientific way on some person's body. The poor patient pays his fee, and would thank kind heaven to be in soothing, trained, skilled hands, to be relieved of his pains, to have his blood circulated more freely, etc., but not relief will ever be the gain brought about by this impostor, who represents 90 per cent. of his class. As has been said before, it is most needful for the public to recognise this fact, that to be a skilled and successful operator is to possess a very great and rare gift, *i.e.*, the acceptable, sympathetic and scientific handling of human flesh; then the

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