

though they do "offend good citizenship." The verdict upon this judgment will be passed according to each reader's own character, and will doubtless, in the great majority of instances, be based upon the rules and precepts of life by which most of us are well contented to be guided.

A. M. G.

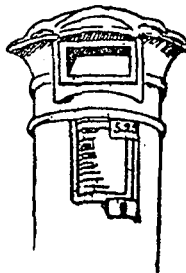
Inventions, Preparations, &c.

HERTS'S PLATINUM ANTI-CORSET.

There are many cases upon which nurses have to attend where the use of an ordinary stiff corset is forbidden, and where the accustomed support is very greatly missed. This is, perhaps, especially the case with patients who have undergone the operation of amputation of the breast, and in these for many weeks the use of a hard corset is impossible. We have recently tried, in several cases, for such patients, the employment of a woollen and tightly-fitting underwaist, or of the newly invented platinum Anti-Corset, and have been especially pleased with the advantages of the latter. It consists of a well-shaped garment like a corset cover, made of strong linen, buttoned in front and laced behind, and supported at intervals by perpendicular metal bands which are covered by fine linen and slip into sheaths stitched on the material, from which they can be easily withdrawn if it is desired to avoid pressure at any particular point, or when it is necessary for the garment to be washed. The invention strikes us as being as ingenious, as we believe it will prove to be valuable, and it will be well for those of our readers who are engaged in surgical nursing, or who desire to obtain for themselves a corset which shall combine comfort and utility, to take an early opportunity of inspecting these goods at the wholesale makers, Messrs Herts & Co., 1, Cripplegate Buildings, Wood Street, E.C.

SANITARY LINOLEUM.

The use of this material as a floor covering, especially for the rooms of Nursing Homes and small Hospitals, is increasing in popularity, and it is evident that, provided the material is good, and that it is efficiently laid so as to cover completely the entire flooring, it provides a material most valuable from a sanitary point of view, inasmuch as it enables the floor to be easily and completely cleansed, and disinfected. To the linoleum manufactured by John Barry, Ostlere & Co., Limited, of the Perth Works, Kirkcaldy, we are able to accord our complete and strong recommendation. It is not only well-made and of most durable properties, but its price compares very favourably with that charged by well-known London houses, and if any of our readers give it a trial, they will, we have reason to believe, be thoroughly satisfied with their purchase.



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.

RURAL NURSES.

To the Editor of "the Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I am not partial to newspaper controversies, which are generally very unsatisfactory to both parties, but I cannot allow your phrase, "a gross system of sweating," to pass without protest. It is quite true that we pay the Cottage Nurses (who are of the cottager class), 10s. a week, and that they board and lodge themselves WHEN NOT EMPLOYED, but these three words make all the difference between good and bad pay. As a matter of fact, Miss Broadwood's scheme has proved such an enormous boon to the village poor, and the requisitions for Nurses have so increased in consequence, that it is with difficulty we can arrange to spare them for their annual four weeks' holiday. To give an instance: Two of our Heythrop Nurses have been in continuous work since their holidays last year; one has never been to her lodgings at all, and the other only for a day or two; the 10s. a week has gone into their pockets almost intact. Of 2 new Nurses who came to us in the Spring, one went to a case the day she arrived, and the other was but a short time idle. As to other expenses than board, lodgings vary in different localities; here they are extremely cheap, the houses being very low rented; and washing may be called "an unconsidered trifle," for the Nurses rarely pay anything at all; in the bettermost houses it is done for them, and in cottages, the arrangement they have themselves made is that their clothes go into the family wash, and they help with the ironing as an equivalent. When nursing the very poor, we allow extra for their board, and there are other allowances besides, so that instead of sweating, I think the pay of the Cottage Nurses contrasts very favourably with that of some Institutions in London, of which I have read that the Probationers are "sent out to do Private Nursing that they may bring two guineas per week to the coffers of the Institution, while they are receiving salaries of only from twenty to thirty shillings per month." I own this does seem a little disproportionate. One word as to the low rate of our subscriptions and fees: the poverty of the class which we call *par excellence* "the poor" is patent to all; not so the poverty which wears decent clothes, and is of refined habits. Everybody can understand that an agricultural labourer cannot afford a heavy fee for a Nurse; but it is not every one who knows that to a curate (for instance) with sons to educate, and an ailing wife, a guinea a week is quite as prohibitive a sum as it is to the ploughman; and now that livings have gone down in value so much, the country rector is in very little better plight than his subordinate. In the agricultural districts, at any rate, the term "gentry" is by no means synonymous with that of "rich people"; but after all, whatever arrangements we make in our Associations is a matter which concerns ourselves alone, and with which the outside public has nothing to do.—I am, yours truly,

MARY WHITMORE JONES.

[We regret to differ from our correspondent, as we will take an early opportunity of explaining at length.—Ed.]

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Having a good many years' experience of a Rural Nurse's Association, I venture to reply to some remarks

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)