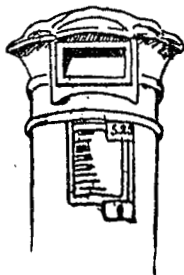


to convey all ablutionary requisites to the invalid at once, and they are capable of being placed firmly on the bed without fear of upsetting. The tray has receptacles for nail, tooth, and shaving brushes, for soap, tooth powder, sponge, hair brush, and other articles. As we said before, so lengthened experience enables us with confidence to repeat, the tray proves invaluable alike to patients and Nurses. The prices in enamelled iron are 2s. 2d., and in plain white china 2s. 10d. Every sick room should certainly be supplied with one.



## 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.*

### "ESPRIT DE CORPS."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I should like to add my testimony to that of a "Happy, Hard Working Nurse." I have been a Private Nurse for over five years, doing it for the love of the work, although receiving the proper fees. This, I maintain, is very essential for all good Nurses, and I can honestly say that those years, with the exception of my Hospital training, have been the happiest in my life. I, too, am proud to be able to say that when I leave a case I feel that the patient, and, as a rule, the relations, are my friends for life, and I have always been most cordially welcomed whenever I have gone back to see them. I do not want to sing my own praises when I say there is not a single thing I object to turning my hand to, in order to add to my patient's comfort, and I do not think my patients have ever found me either "selfish, slovenly, ungracious, grumbling or uncultivated." I agree with "Sympathy," "Esprit de Corps" cannot have done much private work, or she would realise better what the strain is, and the amount of self-control it requires to do the little trivial things *without* grumbling, especially when one is feeling tired and perhaps ill oneself.

I am glad to say amongst my many friends of the Royal British Nurses' Association, I do not know one answering the description given by "Esprit de Corps."

Yours truly,  
E. S.

Roland Gardens, S.W.

### ST. HILDA'S MISSION, TOKYO.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR SIR,—May I draw attention through your columns to the immediate need of another lady Nurse for St. Hilda's Mission, Tokyo. Through its medical department the Mission now undertakes the care of two dispensaries, with which a useful system of District Nursing has been connected.

The work was begun in 1887 by Nurse Grace Hartley, but, owing to her recent and regretted retirement through ill-health, it is now dependent on one English nurse, Nurse Gertrude White, with the aid of some Japanese assistants. We plead earnestly for another Nurse to go to her aid. No department of St. Hilda's Mission has been more fruitful in bringing converts to the Faith. The Nursing of patients in their own homes is an entirely new feature in Japan, while from the missionary standpoint it brings whole families within reach of definite teaching, which, if given in a Hospital, would be confined to a few persons.

I would only add that any candidate for the post should be an earnest Churchwoman, willing to share in the life of a Community Mission, a certificated Nurse, and of sufficient culture to be able to learn colloquial Japanese. Further particulars will be gladly given by yours, &c.,

MAY BICKERSTETH,

The Palace, Exeter, Secretary to the Japanese Mission.  
February 18th, 1895.

### A HEAVEN-BORN NURSES' DIRECTORY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I have received from Mr. H. C. Burdett a circular inviting me to co-operate in furnishing matter for a forthcoming "Directory," which he announces he is about to publish under the imposing title of *Burdett's Official Nursing Directory*. And no doubt other trained Nurses have received a similar invitation.

Now, after a fairly wide experience of Hospital Nurses, I have come to think them to be, as a class, amongst the most unwary of their sex. Private nursing may often bring the hard facts of life home to them pretty strongly, but, nevertheless, I have found the average Nurse to believe, in good faith, that things are what they are said to be, to an extent that is incredible to the woman of the world—the world of disillusion.

So it may not be uncalled for if I take the liberty of warning my fellow-nurses against a trap I might certainly have fallen into myself were it not for my strong distrust of any proceeding that is unprofessional, of any society that appears "bogus." And it is borne in on me strongly that the undertaking in question is both unprofessional and "bogus."

The circular informs us that "a small committee of medical men and matrons are to be responsible" for this so-called "Official Directory," but the only name that is given as a guarantee, is that of Mr. Henry C. Burdett—a gentleman known to us from other sources as "something in the city," but who certainly cannot lay claim to being a matron or a medical man—unless of course in a corporate capacity or in a purely Pickwickian sense. It is misleading therefore, to call such a publication "official."

It might be presumed that some benefit is intended to the public or to the Nursing world from the issue of this directory, else in what is its *raison d'être*? But I should like to point out that an "official" directory—that is not official—of "Nurses" who are not Nurses in the professional meaning of the term, would be mischievous alike to the public and to any trained Nurse unwary enough to allow her name to be included in such a list.

"The compilers," so the circular goes on to state, "reserve the right of excluding any name from the directory." But it is a singular omission that no limit is given as to what might constitute the right of admission, beyond sending in an application; nor is any rule or reason given that would form a ground for exclusion, though it is to be inferred that incompetence or want of training would *not* necessarily exclude an applicant, since we read "that the compilers do not believe" that "a period of training can be enforced upon those who desire to place their names on a Directory of Trained Nurses."

What on earth, I should like to ask these compilers, is to be required from a trained Nurse, if it be not "an enforced

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)