

Comments and Replies.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Sister Ruth.—We are sorry not to be able to give you any very definite help about the kind of outfit, underclothing, &c., it would be advisable to take with you to India, as you do not say which part you are going to. Of course there are many different climates and therefore the outfit would vary considerably. If you will tell us the locality perhaps some of our readers who have been in India would send information that would be of assistance to you.

Miss Stephens.—We should certainly not advise you to accept the position of Nurse-companion to a lady going to Australia, unless she can give you some guarantee of her position there. From the facts you give us it would not appear as if the position is a desirable one; and the information you have about the family seems to be extremely vague. At your age it would be very unpleasant to land in the New World amid total strangers—and, as you say, without any money—and find the position an undesirable one. If you were a few years older you would be able better to grapple with any difficulties which might arise. Write to us again if you learn more. We are always pleased to do what we can to help any of our readers.

Mrs. Stanton.—We assure you there are *very* few masseuses who are in receipt of £300 a year—that is to say, by the legitimate exercise of their calling. Unfortunately, there are a great many black sheep in the profession and a certain amount of stigma will rest on massage until the practitioners of the art unite themselves into an organised body with rules and regulations which will enable them to

exclude from their ranks persons with shady reputations. We sympathise very much with your position and shall be glad to give you any information which will in any way help you in your painful circumstances. Please write to us again. We strongly advise you to be very careful in your selection of a Massage and Training Home. We know of several cases in which young women have had most humiliating experiences through having entered, as probationers of massage, homes of which they really knew nothing. The utmost caution is necessary.

Nurse Siddons.—No, we do not consider that it is at all *infra dig.* or unprofessional for a trained Nurse to take charge of the nursery in such an establishment as you purpose entering. But, for your own sake and for the sake of your profession, your employer should thoroughly understand that your position varies from that of the ordinary Head-nurse. She evidently realises that it is a great advantage to the health of her children to secure the services of so highly trained a woman as yourself, and would doubtless understand that the advantage is worth some concessions. We have always thought that nursery-work was essentially an opening for gentlewomen—being extremely interesting and pleasant. And it would make a great difference in the training of children if all mothers could be induced to see that the care of the nursery is essentially a beautiful trust, and one which a cultured woman should be glad to undertake.

The Editor has received a large number of letters this week and regrets that pressure on her space prevents her acknowledging their receipt under the usual heading. She cordially thanks those friends who have written so kindly to her concerning the Royal British Nurses' Association.

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