

Comments and Replies.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THE Hon. Superintendent of the Registered Nurses' Society desires to state that she cannot see candidates desirous of joining the Society during the month of August.

Nurse Ellis.—Indeed we are very glad to be asked for information. It is very trying, as you say, to be so constantly using iodoform suppositories, as the odour clings so pertinaciously to the fingers. You will find it very effectual in preventing this if you lubricate the fingers thoroughly with glycerine, then introduce the suppository and wash the hands with soap and water immediately after. You will then find very little odour clinging to the hands.

Nurse Gibbons.—We quite agree with some of your views and sympathise with your feeling that when Nursing a private patient the family of that patient might sometimes think of allowing the Nurse a little "time off," in addition to the regulation walk. As you say there are "many little odds and ends one would like to do," and patients "often say it fidgets them to see Nurse writing letters," and yet, as you remark, one must sometimes write to one's friends! During the acute stages of an illness a Nurse can hardly expect to leave the sick room for extra leave, but during convalescence she can often be spared for an hour or so, over and above the "regulations." As a rule we think patient's friends are very nice to Nurses. Sometimes when they appear not to be, it is often "the evil wrought from want of thought" rather than want of kindness and consideration.

Nurse B.—We do not wonder that your patient's friends sent a complaint to the Superintendent of the Institution for

which you work. We think it was most unreasonable of you, when engaged as a private Nurse in a fashionable family, during the London season, to expect always to dine with them! You say your meals were nicely served, but you think the family should have recognised your social position by inviting you to dine with them. In this we cannot agree. It would be very awkward for them when their friends came to dine—as you say they frequently did—to have a stranger, more especially a Nurse in uniform, present. And, apart from other considerations, dinner at 8.15 is an hour very inconvenient from the point of view of the sick-room, the night Nurse not coming on duty till 10 p.m. And a long mid-season dinner takes up too much of a Nurse's time. Altogether we cannot but think the grievance, instead of being on your side, is distinctly on that of the family in which you nursed.

LETTERS RECEIVED.

- B. Miss Badcock, Leicester. Mrs. Bryant, New York.
 C. Mrs. Colin, York. Miss Camp, Ayr.
 F. Mrs. Farwell, Dublin. Miss Farquharson, Glasgow.
 G. Mrs. Gordon, London (with enclosure).
 H. Miss Hutton, California. Mrs. Hunt, Mentone.
 K. Miss Kennedy, Belfast. Mrs. Kinnaird, Cork.
 O. Mrs. Overbeck, Hamburg. Dr. Owen.
 R. Mrs. Baillie Reynolds (with enclosure). Mrs. Rose (with enclosure).
 S. Miss Stanton, London. Mrs. Charles Sandeman.
 T. Mrs. Troutbeck. Mrs. Turner, Derby.
 W. Miss Waters, Glasgow. Mrs. Wilson, London. Mrs. White, Elgin.

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