

and Medical staffs. And there is no logical reason for denying one's Nurses the right to entertain medical students in the kitchen so long as "Sister" has the House Surgeon to tea in her private room. By all means let the Sisters have sitting-rooms, and let them invite their outside friends, but discipline must be maintained in their relations with the resident Medical staff, and this cannot be done if they hobnob together "over the tea-cups."

Yours sincerely,  
A PROVINCIAL MATRON.

"CHRISTMAS."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I am writing in answer to a letter which appeared in last week's RECORD, *re* suggestions for the coming Christmas festivities. If you think a "musical evening" would be appreciated by the patients in any of the London Hospitals, I should be very pleased to get up a party amongst some of my friends.

If my suggestion is approved of, perhaps Sisters or Nurses would communicate with me. We shall be leaving town on the 23rd for a week, but before and after that, should be delighted to render any help.

Believe me,  
Yours sincerely,  
GRACE A. HURDITCH.

164, Alexandra Road,  
St. John's Wood, N.W.

CHRISTMAS BAGS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Judging from your correspondent's letter I should think the American people take a more living interest in their Hospitals than is the case with us. Every Christmas I am at my wits' end to know how to provide amusement and presents for the sick in our wards. We are in a large and very prosperous town, and at Christmas the people by whom we are surrounded give the most extravagant balls, dinner-parties and entertainments for their own amusement. But it is like the old story of "extracting blood from a stone" when we appeal to them for small subscriptions to help to make Christmas a little more bright and lively to those whose lives are by no means festive. I asked a lady the other day to give half a guinea towards an "Amusement and Present Fund"—I always start about two months before Christmas. But she refused on the ground "that times were so hard, she really must curtail expenses." Now I know she has just ordered a new gown which is to cost twenty-five guineas. It seems to me that she should have expressed it differently; she should have said "Times are hard so I curtail my *charities*, but not my *luxuries*." A few yards less of ribbon on that gown would have given that half-guinea my poor patients need so badly. But I am going to make some "Christmas bags." My motto is *Nil Desperandum* in spite of past depressing experiences. Perhaps the novelty of the thing will tempt some people to drop some small crumbs from their riches into the Hospital bags.

Sincerely yours,  
A PROVINCIAL MATRON.

QUALIFICATION FOR REGISTRATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Should all Hospitals with less than forty beds be denied by the Royal British Nurses' Association to take any part in the education of Nurses, as suggested in the Resolution submitted to the General Council Meeting, the result will be to greatly increase the expense of working these Institutions, as no Probationers will offer themselves to us for training; we must then only engage thoroughly trained Nurses, and where are we to obtain them? The

fact is that to keep a good class of efficient Nurses in these small Hospitals is most difficult, unless they are admitted as Probationers and sign a contract. Co-operative training will solve the difficulty for the special Hospitals, as the experience to be gained in their wards is of the utmost educational value, but we small general and cottage Hospitals will suffer severely, or be altogether snuffed out.

Yours,  
COTTAGE HOSPITAL MATRON.

"COMPARING NOTES."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Might I ask if some experienced mental Nurse would kindly give me advice through your columns in the following case. A young lady mentally afflicted is at present residing with her friends; the orders of the doctor under whose care she has been, are to allow her to follow her ordinary home life as far as possible without interference. As is so often the case with such patients, her appetite is very bad, and one of the greatest difficulties her friends have to combat is the systematic constipation from which she suffers. No persuasions will induce her knowingly to take an aperient, and to give an enema would cause the excitement which in her case the doctor so strictly prohibits. In such a case what can be done? We Nurses turn so naturally for help and advice to the RECORD, it occurred to me perhaps some other Nurse might be able to suggest an aperient that it is possible to effectually disguise in food, or give some useful hint how to administer medicine without occasioning undue excitement. Doses of from 25 to 30 grs. of jalap have been given but without any very good result. Cascara, pills of any description and senna the patient simply refuses to take, and as she is not to be coerced in any way, the case is a difficult one, and I shall be grateful for any advice on the subject.

Yours truly,  
F. H.

[We invite our readers to reply to this practical question.—ED.]

THE NURSES' BEER.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I know that in some Hospitals, Infirmarys and Nursing Institutes it is considered that beer for the Nurses is out of the question. It is often called "immoral" to drink beer, "beneath professional dignity" and "unwise." Now I do not propose to combat any of these assertions, or to regard the question from the temperance or moral point of view. My object in writing is to call attention to a discussion which recently took place when the question of a Nurse's beer came before the Orsett Board of Guardians.

The Master reported that the Assistant Nurse wished to know if the Guardians would allow her money in lieu of beer. The Master stated that the Nurse would leave the Board to decide the scale.—In reply to Mr. Brooks, the Master said the terms at other Unions were £2 per annum. The weekly cost of the beer which was allowed the Nurse was 1s. 3d.—Mr. Brooks: That is sixty-five shillings per year.—Mrs. Brooks thought £2 was a good price.—The Rev. T. Lander asked if the officers were allowed to have money in lieu of beer.—The Chairman: Yes.—Mr. Ridgwell moved "that the Assistant Nurse receive 2s. per quarter in lieu of beer."—Mr. Simons seconded.—Mr. Wright: Will she have to pay for the coffee?—The Chairman: No.—Mr. Wright: I do not think that we should take off one drink and substitute another.—The Master said that the Nurse did not understand that there would be coffee or anything substituted.—Mr. Ridgwell's motion was agreed to.

Now the different Boards of Guardians throughout the country have been distinguishing themselves recently in many unpleasant ways, and the NURSING RECORD, I am glad to see, has been dealing with them in an effective manner. But it would seem as if the topmost point in meanness has been reached when a member of a Board could be found to suggest that a Nurse in receipt of beer money should pay the Infirmary so much for every cup of coffee she drinks. If she pays for coffee why should she not pay for tea? Does this gentlemen suggest that cold (or even hot) water should be served to those Nurses who do not pay for the stimulating Mocha or Bohea?

Yours, &c.,  
A HATER OF MEANNESS.

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