

Comments and Replies.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A Woman Guardian, London.—It certainly would not be right to remunerate an industrial trainer who has been acting as temporary Nurse at the Infirmary at the same rate as you would pay a trained Nurse. We certainly should not advocate a system of underpaying any woman working in any capacity, but a professional and trained Nurse should naturally receive a higher rate of pay than an "industrial trainer" who temporarily takes the place of a Nurse.

Nurse Antiquary, Oxford.—An interesting discussion has recently been going on in the press as to the origin of Hospitals, but nothing satisfactory or definite has been proved to throw light on a question which must often have occurred to Hospital workers. There is one point Nurses may feel assured of, and that is that their work is of the very oldest type, and that Hospitals are at all events pre-Christian, though we think not pre-historic. Dr. W. Hunter says, in writing of Asoka, a king in India at a period 244 B.C.: "A system of medical aid was established throughout his kingdom and the conquered provinces, as far as Ceylon, for both man and beast." So that these so-called "heathen" went even further than we do, by providing for sick and wounded animals.

Superstition, Cork.—There are so many superstitions connected with drowning people that it would be impossible to reproduce a tithe of them in this column. There are many variations of the superstitions, but throughout them all there is a stout maintenance of the theory that bad luck always results to those who rescue or touch drowned people. An old Cornish fisherman told us that he had let several people whom he *might* have saved drown, because he had always heard if you saved a person from drowning, you would be compelled by law to maintain him for the rest of his days. When we explained that this was an absurdity, the old fisherman did not conceal his regret for the victims of his ignor-

ance. "To think I might 'a saved them, after all," he said, reflectively.

Miss Anisty, Bedale.—We regret that the Course of Lectures has been discontinued by the Royal British Nurses' Association. It is hoped that this great want, on the part of those desirous of preparing themselves to enter for training, will, in due course, be met. Your question how to utilise the time during the years of waiting is constantly being asked. We hope the Matrons' Council will consider the question in the near future.

Sister John, London.—Write to the Manager, NURSING RECORD, 11, Adam Street, Strand, for a form to fill in; the "Directory" only contains the names and qualifications of Registered Nurses.

LETTERS RECEIVED.

- A. Miss Anisty, Coventry. Miss L. Aldridge, Old Charlton (with enclosure).
- B. Miss C. la Bastide, Baarslag, Amsterdam (with enclosure). Miss C. Burton, Malta.
- C. Miss Craven, Huddersfield. Miss Custance, Aylesbury.
- G. Mrs. Gordon, London (with enclosure).
- H. Miss G. M. Hackblock, Norwich. Miss Harrington, London (with enclosure). Miss Haven, New Orleans.
- K. Miss Kelly, Hampstead (with enclosure).
- L. Miss Loveridge, London (with enclosure).
- M. Mrs. Morris, Carnarvon.
- P. Miss Pettiifer, London.
- R. Mrs. Rose (with enclosure). Mrs. Reynolds (with enclosure). Miss Raymond, Carshalton. Miss Symonds, Cannes (with enclosure). Mr. Gofton Salmond, London (with enclosure). Miss Stone, Salisbury (with enclosure).
- T. Miss Tennant, Peebles (with enclosure). Miss Tallents, Bombay (with enclosure).
- w. Miss Warriner, Retford. Miss G. Waters, Antrim.

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