

[*Erratum.*—On page 210, col. 2, line 42, of our last issue read, "But for minor operations it is efficacious to administer an aperient for two nights previous to the operation," leaving out "for two nights," inserted by a printer's error. It is only necessary to give *one* aperient.—ED.]

## Comments and Replies.

### REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Temperance Nurse.*—You are only one of several Nurse-abstainers who have written criticising the statement of Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson, that the best Nurses are always abstainers. We quite agree with you that such a very broad statement is invidious. We have a letter dealing with the subject, which will appear next week. Many thanks for your very complimentary remarks about the RECORD.

*Sister Ruth.*—We are surprised you should have taken so seriously a mere expression of opinion on the part of one medical man. Of course, there never will be a time when anatomy and physiology will not be taught to Nurses. It would be too terrible a reversion to the original type, and you need have no fear on the subject. It is only a little scare arising from ignorance, which it is only natural to expect from men of narrow vision—who look only to to-day and petty self-interests. Mrs. Partington could not sweep back the ocean with her little broom. So two or three unrepresentative men and women are not going to keep back Nursing progress.

*Miss E. Mallit, Somerville Club.*—We are not sure, from your letter, to what Society you refer, but suppose it to be

the Society of Trained Masseuses—all particulars of which can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. A. Arthur, Trained Nurses' Club, 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

*Mrs. Anderson, Kensington.*—It is hoped to convene a Conference a little later in the season, when the proposed Constitution will be submitted to the delegates and members for free discussion. We are quite aware of the difficulties to be overcome, and do not expect great results for some time to come. Mrs. Alec Tweedie, 30, York Terrace, Harley Street, is devoting her great abilities to the consideration of the important question of women's work and duty in connection with British produce. We feel sure she will be pleased to give you further information as soon as she has been able to consult with those able to express expert opinions from practical experience. She hopes to arrange a Drawing-Room Meeting in London after the Easter holidays.

*Probationer G.*—We regret to read of your disappointment, and feel sure that you may rely upon the opinion expressed by a Matron with such long experience in training Nurses. All young women are not suitable for Nurses, even although their intentions may be of the best. We hold that it is a work for which the minority, and not the majority, of women are suited; and the fact that it is now considered *de rigueur* for at least one member of a family of daughters to become a trained Nurse, whether she is suited by disposition or not for the work, has added greatly to the difficulties of selection by Hospital matrons. Formerly only those women with a natural inclination to *nurse the sick* offered themselves, from the educated classes; thus they entered upon their duties inspired by the true spirit of Nursing, and the result was eminently satisfactory to themselves and to the patients.

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