

America; he is apparently well and strong, and weighing 193 lbs.

At the end of February Mrs. F. writes that my late patient feels stronger than he has for some years prior to his illness, and is now able to take a large amount of exercise—bicycling, fencing, &c. He still wears elastic stockings, as he likes the support they give.

Nursing Echoes.

*** All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



ONE of the candidates for the Matronship of the Brook Fever Hospital expresses the opinion that it is hardly just that work under the Metropolitan Asylums Board is not more taken into consideration, when a valuable post, such as that of Matron under its authority, has to be filled. She remarks that there were some first-class candidates amongst those

ladies who applied for the Brook Hospital who had already done excellent service under the Board—and yet an entirely outside candidate was selected.

Of course, it is the duty of the Board to select the very best woman they can get for the responsible position of Matron to a large Fever Hospital. But a chance of promotion is very encouraging to those already working in a special line of work, and the claims of such should certainly be taken into consideration.

So many positions of authority in our Hospitals are given away through personal interest, and not to the most capable candidate, that there is a strong feeling upon the part of women who apply for Matronships that great injustice is often inflicted upon those who cannot pull the wires. We fear this system is universal, and that Trained Nurses are not the only sufferers.

A SYMPATHETIC reader writes:—"It seems to me, with so many subjects under discussion in

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the correspondence columns of the RECORD, that we often miss discussing good points—for instance last week. I should like to say a few words on various subjects, and ask a few questions.

Concerning the Home of Rest at Brighton, I know dozens of Nurses who can endorse the praise of its comfort, expressed by Miss Forbes, from personal experience. I should like to know how many of us, per cent., in any way interest ourselves in its existence, beyond accepting its benefits. This would be an interesting statistic in next year's Report.

And then touching on the 'Use and Abuse of Uniforms,' why should men and women look at a subject from a diametrically opposite point of view? Two Nurses write and condemn (rightly, I think) the appearance of a Nurse in indoor uniform in the stalls of the 'Empire.' A Hospital secretary, on the other hand, pooh-poohs the circumstance, and in fact upholds the Nurse's conduct. This laxity upon the part of men to appreciate the essence of discipline in matters Nursing, is at the root of many Hospital troubles, and I believe will in the end be found to be the germ of the disease from which the Royal British Nurses' Association is just now suffering. It was never intended that in matters of Hospital discipline women should be subject to men.

A 'Secretary' says 'that at any entertainment that is fit for a Nurse to attend, she need not be ashamed to appear in uniform.' Would that argument hold good in parallel cases? For instance, the Hospital cook is a charming object in his white apron and paper cap in the kitchen, but we should imagine his appearance would be somewhat startling, say, in the pit at the theatre; or say, the operating surgeon, in mackintosh apron and sleeves—why should he not so appear in his West End consulting room? Eminently business-like and hygienic.

The truth is, there still remain the necessary and unwritten laws of 'good taste,' and where a person in ignorance violates these, and in so doing violates the conscience of the community, it is well that public opinion should be let loose. Therefore let us be grateful for our RECORD.

And then the question of 'Temperance amongst Nurses' always seems to rouse up a certain amount of ill-feeling. Why? Naturally the public would prefer Nurses to drink nothing but water, because it is cheap; I should prefer them to imbibe milk because it is wholesome; but those who prefer ale and wine will doubt-

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