

CORRESPONDENCE

(Notes, Queries, &c.)

* * We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by Correspondents. Brevity and conciseness will have first consideration. See Notices.

* * British Nurses' Association.—We are requested to state that Miss Wood (Hon. Sec.) will be at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W., every Wednesday, from 10.30 a.m. to noon, and at 7, St. George's Mansions, Red Lion Square, W.C., on each Friday until noon, to see Nurses or others who may wish to make inquiries; also that annual subscriptions are due on January 1, and that early payment of these will save much trouble to the Secretaries and much expense to the Association.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I should like to make known to your readers who might be interested in the subject, that the Rational Dress Society, in Mortimer Street, is now showing a corset which ought to find favour with all who wish for ease and comfort without too great a sacrifice of personal appearance. It is knitted in sanitary wool, and is so elastic that, with the addition of a few very supple bones, it gives all necessary support and restraint, and yet allows full play to all the muscles. It may be had to lace up the back or not, as preferred. In the former case a band of woollen material runs under the lacing, and so prevents any exposure to cold of the spine. For ladies who cannot bear the slightest pressure, or who have very small hips, shoulder straps are provided, which keep the corset in place. With such a corset as this the society maintain that only two other under-garments are necessary—a high woollen combination and one petticoat, which is buttoned on to the corset. In the matter of unbleached woollen combinations, perfection would seem to have been reached at last, in one in Umritsur wool, which, though used in its natural state, is pure white, and as soft and smooth as silk. Very excellent for children's dresses, and also for young ladies, are "Mr. Ruskin's Homespuns," so called because this revival of village industries in the Isle of Man is mainly due to the interest taken in it by Mr. Ruskin. Besides the neutral tints, more or less common to all homespuns, this material may be had in a good red brown, a pretty delicate blue, and with narrow stripes. It washes admirably, and the only fault which could possibly be found with it is that it wears too long.—Yours, &c., HOME SISTER.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—The following suggestions may be of some use to "Matron," although it is very difficult to give advice concerning the working of a Hospital of whose general surroundings one is in ignorance. Where one Night Superintendent only is employed, her hours are necessarily long, as with the routine duties of the Home they extend usually from eight p.m. till twelve noon on the following day. Acting in this capacity in a large country Hospital, I am called at 7.45 p.m., preside at the Night Nurses' breakfast table at 8.30., send them on duty at nine, when I have my own breakfast, and begin my first round at ten. I preside again at the Night

Nurses' dinner at 8.30 a.m., give them their checks for passing the gates, and I am then off duty till eleven a.m., when the Nurses report themselves to me upon returning from their walk, before retiring to bed. I then dine, and at 11.45 a.m. am responsible for quiet in my department, paying a visit to the Nurses' cubicles to see that all are in bed. I am usually asleep soon after twelve. To give me extra rest our Lady Superintendent presides at the Night Nurses' breakfast and dinner tables once a week, by which means I gain two extra hours in bed one evening, and am at liberty at eight a.m. on one morning. I am also off duty for one night every month, when the Lady Superintendent makes two rounds of the wards (and I am bound to say looks as bright as usual during the following day), and the Assistant Matron presides at the table. With these arrangements, I do not find my duty more than I can perform, nor my hours of work too long.—I am, Sir, NIGHT SISTER.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—May I put in a plea for your much sate-upon "Sairy," handicapped in the race for public favour by at least five decades? The juxtaposition of age with youth is scarcely fair to the former, nor altogether artistic. Even in the benighted days of yore, Nurses were not *all* "Gamps." Who knows? "Sairy" may have possessed youthful charms! The efflorescence that shows a perverse partiality for a prominent feature of her interesting (?) countenance may *once* have bloomed on her cheeks; the eyes that look lovingly on the historic "Black Bottle" may have sought the gaze of a pig-tailed adorer in the past!

An imaginary sketch of our sweet damsel "Now," as a possible "Then" of Christmas, 1938—when "our" Record will circulate from Pole to Pole, and thanks to the Inter-Oceanic Aerial Electric Railway (or something of the sort), the Nurse of the period will be able to fulfil with equal facility an Arctic or Antarctic engagement—is the humble suggestion of your correspondent, FAIR PLAY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I think it may be of interest to your readers to have a few details as to the openings for Trained Nurses in Australia. There are Nurses' Homes at both Sydney and Melbourne, where the rates of pay for first-class Nurses are good. At the one they get 10s. a week, with board, washing, and indoor uniform found. While they are attending a case their pay is raised to £1 a week, and, if the case be infectious, to 30s. At the other they get £40 to £45 a year, and 15 per cent. on their earnings, beside indoor uniform. I am informed that there are good openings in South Australia and Queensland, but I have no account of Nurses' Homes in those colonies. I should add that Nurses for the Sydney Home can be engaged before leaving England. In conclusion, I would earnestly beg any young woman who may be thinking of going to Australia, not to travel alone and unprotected. The Church Emigration Society sends out parties, under the care of Matrons, from time to time, and though, as its name implies, primarily a Church Society, it is ready to allow any young women of respectable character to travel under the protection of its Matrons.

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