

sufficient funds to keep the Library in full working order, and, as Hon. Sec. conducted all correspondence, &c., until her marriage and ill-health prevented her from taking active part in the work, though her generous interest has never failed, and this home is still taken in her name.

2.—It is absolutely untrue that the ladies interested in the library resented Miss Arnold's being described as foundress or that this was the reason of her withdrawal. Miss Arnold resigned because she objected to the formation of an organised Executive Committee. This step was rendered urgently necessary by Miss Arnold's advanced age and feeble health, with the growth of the institution, and the large increase in its funds, the administration of which the ladies who carried on the daily work felt to be too great a responsibility.

This movement for the organisation of a committee which resulted in Miss Arnold's withdrawal, was begun in November, 1897, as can be shown by the dates of the correspondence which passed. Obviously, therefore, it could be in no way the result of the article in the *Daily Mail*, which did not appear till January of this year. The gentleman alleged to have called at the *Daily Mail* offices is quite unknown to us, nor can any enquiries elicit his name.

The visit to Miss Arnold of the Secretary of Gardner's Trust, was made with the object of explaining to her the necessity of a thorough re-organisation of the work, and of inducing her to remain under the supervision of a committee. The correspondence terminates with a letter from Mrs. Daw, after Miss Arnold had resigned her official connection with the library, begging her to remain in her rooms at a merely nominal rent, with the attendance of a servant, for as long as she chose.

All the documents referred to, and many others can be seen here by anyone who will make an appointment with me for the purpose, but I must decline beforehand to enter into a paper correspondence. I have only to add that the library is now being placed on a sound legal basis, by incorporation as a Limited Company, to be carried on for charitable purposes.

Believe me, faithfully yours,

ALICE R. McLAREN,

Hon. Sec., *pro tem.*

[We are extremely glad to hear from Miss McLaren, that what was considered harsh treatment by poor old Miss Arnold was not so intended by her co-workers, and hope for the future the Lending Library for the Blind, in Belsize Road, of which we consider she was the Founder, may extend its beneficent work. The contention in our editorial remarks on the subject, was affirming the *principle* that it is the person who conceives, initiates, and organises original institutions, schemes, and plans who is the founder of such institutions, and not those persons who merely find the funds. For instance, Sir Henry Burdett claims the right to the title of Founder of the Royal National Pension Fund, having proposed and organised the society; but the world is well aware that the £20,000 to found the society *financially* was contributed by four merchant princes. We are not aware that Sir Henry Burdett ever directly contributed money for the purpose of founding the Royal National Pension Fund, but his claim to the title is a justifiable one all the same. We ourselves claim, and shall continue to claim, the title of Founder of the Royal British Nurses' Association on similar but even stronger grounds.—ED.]

#### NEW IDEAS.

To the Editor of "*The Nursing Record*."

Frontier Hospital, Queenstown,  
South Africa, April 9th, 1898.

DEAR MADAM,—Could you, through the medium of your valuable journal, obtain for me a few ideas as to the arranging of an operating room and dispensary for a hospital of fifty beds, with a fair amount of both medical and surgical work? I should like to get some new ideas as to the best way of preparing, and storing, stock surgical dressings, antiseptic tampons; sponges, &c., what would be recommended as the handiest receptacle for surgical instruments—in fact, any fresh ideas on hospital work generally, from a nurse's point of view, would be useful to a matron who has been out of touch with the large English institutions for the last three years.

—Please forgive me for troubling you, but your valuable journal has been of such assistance to me for so many years now that we instinctively look to it for help.

Believe me, dear Madam,

Yours very truly,

MATRON.

[We shall be glad to receive from our readers any information which they think would be of use to our correspondent. The illustrated catalogues published by Messrs. Down Brothers, St. Thomas' Street, Borough, and by Messrs. Maw, Son and Thompson, of Aldersgate Street, E.C., would, we think, give her an excellent idea of the charming glass and brass furniture, such as operating tables, air-tight cupboards, &c., which are undoubtedly the ideal furniture for a theatre, more especially for one in a hot climate. Japanned air-tight boxes for storing dressings, and excellent sterilizers for instruments and dressings, can be obtained from the same firms. Should these be too expensive, the ordinary fish kettle is sometimes used for this purpose. An excellent and inexpensive sterilizer, large enough to take a pair of midwifery forceps is sold by Messrs. Reynolds and Branson of Leeds, and the bandage and pill box shoots supplied by the same firm would be invaluable in the dispensary, as would other of their specialities. Bowls for theatre use should, in our opinion, always be of glass, and instrument trays and irrigators of glass or china. Sponges made of cellular cloth which can be boiled after use are preferable to marine sponges, however carefully cleansed, and swabs are usually made of sterilized wool and gauze. The catalogues of the above mentioned firms comprise illustrations of all necessaries in the way of bottles, glasses, pots, etc., for dispensary use, while the drugs supplied by Messrs. Burroughs and Wellcome, both in tabloid and other forms, are most excellent. The capsules supplied by Mr. T. Howard Lloyd, of Leicester, are also very good. Messrs. Bennetts, Son, and Shears, of 167, Kingsland Road, N.E., make all the plant of the newest description necessary for a pharmaceutical laboratory. This firm supplied the new General Hospital, Birmingham, with these requisites. The antiseptic dressings of Messrs. John Milne and Co., Ladywell, S.E., are second to none and superior to most. Mr. John Milne had the advantage of being, for many years, the personal assistant to Lord Lister, and his dressings are always to be relied upon.—ED.]

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)