

nurses in smaller hospitals must get a greater variety in their training, while the certificates of the large hospitals rank highest, which seems unfair.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
PERPLEXITY.

[The difficulties experienced by our correspondent are very real ones, and no doubt arise in a great measure upon the unscientific basis of nurse training at the present day. A certificated nurse ought, without doubt, to be skilled in the nursing of obstetric and gynæcological, in aural and ophthalmic cases, have had experience in nursing the insane, and also of fever nursing, or she will remain hopelessly ignorant of many duties which she may at any time be called upon to perform. For instance, a nurse may be trained and certificated, and yet have no knowledge as to how to make a vaginal plug. Undoubtedly, a probationer's work while training should be so arranged that she should spend a certain time, both on day and night duty, in the different departments of the hospital, including the out-patient department. The way in which maternity training and fever training are to be obtained is a more difficult matter, and will probably eventually be solved by the co-operation of the special with the general hospitals. Whether the nurse, highly trained in all the special work enumerated above, will be evolved in three years, is a question which must be determined in the future.—ED.]

LEPROSY AND VACCINATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—With reference to the Editorial note to the letter you did me the honour to publish in THE NURSING RECORD AND HOSPITAL WORLD of January 1st, permit me to say that the late Sir Andrew Clark said at a dinner given in 1890, in aid of the National Leprosy Fund, that leprosy was a real question. He could produce overwhelming testimony of this fact, and the evidence was conclusive, not only that leprosy did exist in larger measures in recent years, but that new germ centres were springing up in various quarters and the old centres were widening. Before England and the civilized world there was looming a condition of affairs which might, by growth, threaten civilization. In the "Memorandum on the Report of the Leprosy Commission," it is stated that "Leprosy is not diffused by hereditary transmission, and for this reason, and the established amount of sterility among lepers, *the disease has a natural tendency to die out*," neither is it due to contagion, nor to diet. What then can be the cause of the alarming increase of this loathsome and incurable malady? For a reply to this question, I would recommend to your readers the perusal of the remarkable and instructive volume, published by Swan, Sonnenschein & Co., from the pen of Mr. W. Tebb, entitled "The Recrudescence of Leprosy and its Causation," mentioned in my previous communication. The author shows that leprosy is non-existent among the unvaccinated aboriginal races in leprosy districts, and that it is largely due to inoculation in one form and another, and as the disease is of slow incubation (and only manifests itself when rapidly developing) it is impossible in vaccination to avoid leprosy lymph. In citing numerous medically certified cases of leprosy due to vaccination, Mr. Tebb says:—"In some

extracts from memoranda in the case book of Dr. Roger G. S. Chew, of Calcutta, we can gather much information which shows the connection between vaccination and the commencement of leprosy. Jahoorie was a leper for twenty years. His history previous to vaccination was healthy. This operation was performed when he was seven years' old, and the disease first manifested itself six months after, commencing as a white patch over the vaccine site. The description of his symptoms is painful and disgusting. Dadas, a native palki bearer, was a leper twenty years. He was forcibly vaccinated at twenty-one years of age, being then a healthy young man. A year after, leprosy commenced at the seat of the vaccine marks. Mabel P—, a Scotch lassie, aged seventeen, a leper for the last eight years, was brought by her mother, who stated that she was vaccinated when she was seven and a half years old. About six months after the operation, which was successful, symptoms of leprosy began to develop, and she flew here and there to every medical practitioner to save her child; but to no avail, as the disease kept increasing." Twenty-five of these cases are recorded from a large number of others, in this one physician's practice. It is clear, therefore, if every medical man residing in leprosy countries would make careful record of all such experiences, that the testimony would be sufficient, if made public, to cause the lay portion of mankind to rise in revolt against such a dangerous practice. In conclusion, I would earnestly recommend the study of this undeniably important question, and would urge members of Parliament and members of Boards of Health especially, to acquaint themselves with the body of facts revealed in this serious indictment of the vaccination system. They will see that the best way to arrest the progress of leprosy in our Crown Colonies and in India, is not the appointment of expensive Leprosy Commissions, but the introduction of sanitary precautions, and abandoning the practice of vaccination. As the before-going facts only touch the fringe of the 400 pages of evidence collected in Mr. Tebb's startling volume, I should like, with your kind permission, to revert to the subject in a future communication.

Yours respectfully,
JAS. R. WILLIAMSON.

[We have given our correspondent more than justice, and certainly as much space as we can afford. He has replied to our challenge—for one authenticated case of leprosy in England produced by vaccination—by quite irrelevant quotations relating to India.—ED.]

LUXURY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I am glad to see that the NURSING RECORD and its correspondents are raising a protest against the luxury of modern days. It seems to me to be the vice of the age, and its evil influence permeates all classes of society. The disintegration of the Roman Empire began through the luxury of its subjects. I sometimes think that history will repeat itself in these days, and that the downfall of the British Empire will proceed from the same cause.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
OBSERVER.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)