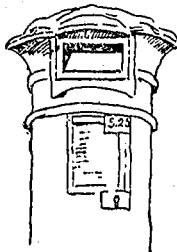


Letters to the Editor.

NOTES, QUERIES. &c.



Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S HOSPITAL FUND FOR LONDON.

Bank of England, E.C.,
14th October, 1899.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—In the report of a conference recently convened of the Hospital Reform Association, the Chairman, Dr. W. Knowsley Sibley is reported to have said:—"He was sorry that the managers of the Prince of Wales's Fund were rather adverse from inquiry, maintaining that their functions were purely administrative. He believed the Fund would become much more popular if its managers followed the example of the managers of the Hospital Sunday Fund and gave preference to the hospitals who adopted the inquiry system."

We should be glad if you would kindly permit us to correct this.

The Visitors of each hospital specially report not only whether any attempt is made to ascertain the social circumstances of the in-patients, but also whether there is an almoner or inquiry officer for the out-patients.

The Distribution Committee carefully consider the reports of the Visitors, and allocate their awards after reviewing all matters connected with the hospital, including the question of inquiry.

Yours obediently,
S. CROSSLEY, } Honorary
J. G. CRAGGS, } Secretaries.

IS IT DECENT?

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I am glad to see a note on Nursing Homes, again in the RECORD, as the mismanagement of many of these places is an increasing evil in the west end of London, especially as a number of surgeons "patronise" certain homes and refuse to operate in others, even if the patient's friends have confidence in, and some knowledge of the management of an institution. Unfortunately I have been a patient in more than one home, and have visited friends in others, and what you say about the youth and inexperience of the nurses is quite true. I have now a young man friend, age 27, in a home where he is perforce quite helpless because of an operation on his hip, and his so-called nurse is a pretty airy young woman aged 19, who has never been in a hospital for training, and who, in my opinion, has therefore no right in a young man's bedroom. But when it is necessary that all offices for a helpless man must be performed by this girl whose ignorance makes her tactless and *gauche*, it may be imagined how repulsive it becomes to a modest young fellow to be attended to by her. In my opinion it is not decent,

and I told the superintendent so, which she resented with asperity—the surgeon was satisfied, and that in her opinion was enough. Now I don't believe the surgeon knows or cares anything about the internal management of the home, or he could not approve of such a system. My friend is paying a high fee for skilled nursing in entering this so-called Home Hospital (otherwise he could take lodgings at half the price) and he is not receiving trained nursing. Surely this is a fraudulent system and ought to be put a stop to by law. The public would owe you much if you could bring the matter forcibly before them, and make them realise how wrong this lack of standard and control in Nursing Homes is. Apologising for the length of my letter.

I remain, yours,
"ONE WHO HAS SUFFERED."

CHRISTIAN ENGLAND.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I think your correspondent, Miss Elizabeth Newman, had reason on her side when she pleaded for at least as much civility and kindness in this country as is shown in heathen lands. Our want of courtesy as a nation is due partly to the rapid rate at which we live—how much easier, for instance, it is to be polite in the country than in London—but partly it is due also to our inherent brusqueness and awkwardness. Eastern nations much excel us in their surface politeness, and even if this does not extend very deep down their ready courtesy makes the wheels of life run much more smoothly. To give the latest instance which has occurred to myself, I was mounting the steps of an omnibus the other day when the conductor treated me so politely and civilly that I turned round to look at the man, the experience was not common. I wondered no longer. The reason showed plainly on the man's face in his unmistakeable trace of black blood.

I am interested in Miss Newman's question, "What are girls to do from nineteen to twenty-four?" They might profitably take a course of Domestic Economy, as well as lessons in practical sick room cookery. It seems to me that these intervening years between leaving school, and taking up hospital work, should be spent in preparation for the latter. Medical students, it must be remembered, spend some years in preparation for their practical work, and nurses might well do the same. If, however, this is for any reason impossible, there are Children's Hospitals which accept probationers certainly at the age of twenty, and experience in the nursing of children is always valuable.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
A BELIEVER IN COURTESY.

COMPARATIVE CHARITY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I was so pleased to see in the NURSING RECORD the principle laid down that women should leave their money for the furtherance of objects which will benefit women. I have no ill-will towards the other sex, but it can, and does, look after its own interests very well, and, moreover, the greater part of the money, in this country at least, is in the hands of men. Women's work of all kinds is suffering, or is being neglected entirely, for lack of funds to carry it on. It is therefore a point which women who have

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