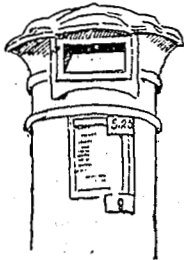


Letters to the Editor.

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

NURSES À LA MODE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I am so glad to see that you are calling attention to the fact that society ladies with no hospital training are volunteering for work in South Africa as nurses for our sick soldiers. No doubt these persons mean well, but they need to be told, short and sharp, that amateurs are not wanted, that it is a serious matter to play with life and death, that what our soldiers need and must receive, if the nation is to be satisfied, is the care of those who by years of hard work have qualified themselves as nurses, and who hold unexceptional certificates. The time has gone by for "born nurses," or for those who think they can—by a few weeks spent in a hospital now—fit themselves for positions for which it takes years to qualify, and all such persons, whatever their station in life, should be kept at home. They are not wanted where there is real hard work to be done. Moreover, there are hundreds of well trained nurses ready and anxious to offer their services, not a tithe of whom have been accepted. There is therefore not the least vestige of an excuse for permitting our sick and wounded soldiers to be cared by unskilled persons.

I am, Dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
"CERTIFICATED NURSE."

DISPENSING FOR NURSES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Your article upon "How to become a Dispenser" will I feel sure be of much interest to nurses. It so often happens that they are required to do a certain amount of simple dispensing, more especially in cottage hospitals, and in country districts. I have myself frequently had to act as dispenser in a small hospital, and although I have always found medical men most kind in explaining anything I want to know it is not very satisfactory either to trouble a busy practitioner with one's difficulties, or to solve them oneself. Some regular training seems almost essential. It is therefore very satisfactory to know that a sound education in dispensing can be obtained so reasonably. I should very much like to know where you consider that one may best obtain instruction in another branch of work essential to know if one wishes to care adequately for the sick. I mean cooking: Not the making of beef tea and custards, or even more elaborate dainties, but a knowledge of the nutritive value of various foods, of how they should be presented to the patient in order to be most nutritious as well as appetising, and of how to secure a variety of diet for one's

patients having at the same time due regard for economy. If you could kindly tell me of any good cookery book it would be very helpful.

Yours faithfully,

A MODERN NURSE.

[The Century Invalid Cookery Book, published by Messrs. T. Fisher Unwin, is a very useful one.—ED.]

THE NOTIFICATION OF MEASLES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—It is time that attention should be called to the necessity for the notification of measles. I am quite sure it is a reform which is urgently necessary. In one country town in which I have worked, an epidemic of measles reached a most alarming extent, and there were many deaths in consequence, not only from measles, but from pneumonia and other complications. When a child's breathing became distressed, the usual remedy adopted by the parents was to open the front and the back door of the cottage, usually opposite one another, and place the child in the passage between, so that it might "get the air." Then all the children in the vicinity were allowed to run in and out of the infected houses, "it's all luck, if they are to take the measles they are, nothing can prevent it, and if not, it does not matter," so the children ran about promiscuously, and the trade of the undertaker thrived apace. I think I am right in saying that in this town, with a population of about 5,000, there were thirty funerals from this cause in one week. I for one, therefore, shall be thankful when the notification of measles is enforced.

Yours very truly,

A DISTRICT NURSE.

THE FRANCHISE

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I am delighted to see that the National Liberal Federation has expressed, in a resolution, its opinion that the Parliamentary Franchise should be extended to women. Surely no society calling itself liberal can consistently adopt any other attitude, for it is most illiberal to deny to any respectable person, who pays taxes, and so bears part of the burden of the State, the right to a voice in the management of State affairs. Women have for long been urging the injustice of being compelled to pay taxes without being allowed representation, and their voices have for the most part fallen on deaf ears, or been listened to with contemptuous amusement, or received with active opposition. And now we see how men feel about it. The fact that the Uitlanders in the Transvaal are allowed no voice in the government of the country is considered sufficient justification for a most sanguinary war. Well, surely, then the claims of women taxpayers in the mother country to representation must now be recognised as just. There is a proverb relating to the throwing of stones by those who live in glass houses. If we do not set our own house in order before we arrange that of our neighbour to our liking, at least let us do it simultaneously.

Yours truly,

A LOGICAL WOMAN.

[We entirely endorse the opinion of our correspondent on this matter. No other is tenable. ED.]

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