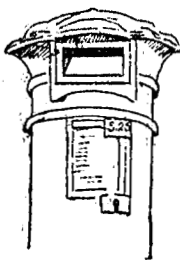


Letters to the Editor.**NOTES, QUERIES. &c.**

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.

HEROES OF MALARIA.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—You have always so persistently deprecated the extreme scientific wave which is just now passing over the medical profession, that I wonder at the great admiration you express for the malarial experiments about to be tried in the Roman Campagna under the supervision of Dr. Patrick Manson. If it is necessary in the interests of science that the value of mosquito proof houses should be tested, why not erect them for those whose duties already lie in malarial districts and observe the efficacy in these cases instead of subjecting healthy persons to the risk of contracting this disease, a disease which annually causes a greater mortality than any other, and of which the after effects are frequently of the most serious nature. Notable amongst these are the permanent impairment of the memory, and the breaking down of the nervous system, caused partly by disease itself, partly by the large doses of quinine which are given to combat it. At least such is my experience of tropical malaria, and I believe the Roman form is much the same. One wonders if the servants who are to form part of this expedition have had the risks fully explained to them. As for feeding malarial infected mosquitoes on healthy Englishmen in the hope that they will, in consequence of the inoculation involved, develop malaria, it appears to me to be wicked, no milder word is adequate, but then I shall no doubt be told that I am considering the interests of individuals rather than of the science of medicine. Perhaps so. The interests of individuals appeal to me; scientific medicine, when it involves the principle of "doing evil that good may come" has no charms, especially after having suffered much from the after effects of malaria.

ONCE BITTEN TWICE SHY.

A MORNING TIME TABLE.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I have read with profit and pleasure the answers kindly sent by Mr. Sydney Holland and "Matron," about the arrangement of Ward-work for nurses in the morning, and quite agree that with plenty of help the patients can be properly attended to, but in many hospitals plenty of help is not provided. Here, for instance, in wards containing from 30 beds we have one sister, one staff nurse, and only two probationers, and one ward maid, much of whose time is taken up waiting upon the Sister and doing her messages, so that much of the cleaning in the ward and lavatory is done by the probationers instead of by the ward-maid

as it should be. "Matron" arranges for Sister to come on duty at 8, and help with the nursing work,—here she does not come on till 9, and as the House Staff come at 9.30 we are always in a hurry. I have worked in several hospitals and it seems to me as a mere nurse that it would be much better if the Sisters lived in the home and had their regular hours on and off duty and their meals provided, then the patients would have the benefit of the whole time of Sister and ward-maid. At present, in many hospitals, these two officers provided by the Committee to help in the ward have their time taken up with other things, and in many cases the ward-maid becomes the personal servant of the Sister, and is often considered at the expense of the probationers. No doubt nurses ought not to form opinions on these matters, as a Matron once told me: "When you are a Matron, or even a Sister, it will be quite time enough for you to form opinions on methods of work; at present all you have got to do is to do as you are told!"

No doubt this is sensible advice and conducive to discipline, but when I am told to wash ten helpless patients all over in an hour, it "cannot be did."

Yours truly,

"A STAFF NURSE."

DEAR MADAM,—I am glad to see "Matron" lays stress on the question of the breakfast hour in hospitals. I agree with her, six o'clock is quite early enough, but this is just one of those rules which I find most difficult to enforce. Nurses so often turn up the gas and "wire in" to the work long before six—at least that is my experience.

"NIGHT SISTER."

SELF-GOVERNMENT.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I for one am most grateful to Miss L. L. Dock for her most pertinent remarks on the Army Nursing Bill in the United States, for, as she points out, it is not in that country alone that the struggle for right and just organization is going on, but here also it is being fought out. It is true that the number, not of those who believe in, but of those who have the courage to fight for the principle of the government of the nursing profession by nurses is small; the fight is too bitter, the odds too uneven, for those who put self-interest first, to care to enter into. Further, it is not in the nursing profession alone, but in all professions, that those who fight for principles must give up the hope of professional preferment. The moment will inevitably come, to all who care for both, when they must make their choice between the two, and a bitter moment it is. To nurses who have an enthusiastic love of their work for its own sake, and find their life a most satisfying one, while at the same time it enables them to maintain themselves in independence, the choice is specially hard. It is good to know, therefore, that in other countries the same struggle is going on, and that "it will be kept up." Is it too much to hope that the public in this country will rouse themselves, not only in the interests of nurses, but in their own, to help trained nurses to obtain the legal status accorded to other professions?

Your faithfully,

A GRADUATE NURSE.

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