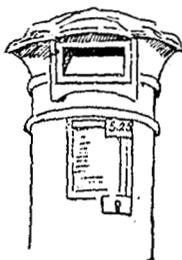


ments. As Charles Kingsley said: "If the Church of Christ were for one single day just what she ought to be, the whole world would be converted by sun-down."

I have read no book for months which has struck me as being a more perfect thing in its way than this, and my earnest advice is, Read it. G. M. R.

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 PICTORIAL PUZZLE PRIZE.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM.—Many thanks for the cheque I received this morning. I little thought that I should be the fortunate one,

I am, yours faithfully,
A. HUNTER.

Royal Berks Hospital, Reading.
Feb. 2nd, 1901.

THE QUEEN'S NURSES.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR EDITOR,—I was so pleased to read last week that a professional nurse was admitted to the death chamber of our late Queen; surely, after bringing, as she has done, the blessing of trained nursing to the bed-side of her poorest subjects all over the kingdom, there would have been something very strange had no trained nurse been permitted to serve her in a professional capacity at the end. Would it not have been a gracious act upon the part of her physicians if they had made this quite plain to the public, who watched with such faithful eyes her short passing from this life, if they had made official mention of the fact that their illustrious patient was tended by a trained nurse; many expressions of regret were caused by the statement in the press repeated so emphatically "That no professional nurse was being employed." As you say, there was little more to be done than "watching, tending, feeding." But you know how much the comfort of the patient depends upon the way these apparently simple services are rendered. I feel sure dear Editor, that the news that the skill of a thoroughly trained nurse was available if required by our late Gracious Sovereign will relieve many of the public, as well as the nurses.

Yours truly, G. S.

STANDING THE TEST.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—The letters from the Matrons on "Standing the Test," are most admirable, and may be read with advantage by many nurses who expect so much now-a-days, and, I fear, give so little. But there

was one remark made by Miss Elinor Pell-Smith in your last, which seems to call for some protest. It runs—"Secondly, a junior nurse was being sent on duty to an isolation ward to take charge of a delirious man." "The patient may kill you," was the concluding remark after directions were given." Now, I presume, that the directions were given by the Matron or a Sister, and it appears to me that no Matron or Sister has any right to send a "junior nurse" on duty with a maniacal patient, who might lose her life in the fulfilment of duty—nor should any poor delirious patient in a well-regulated hospital be so placed that he might kill a fellow creature. It was the duty of all those in authority to *protect* both the young nurse and her charge, and one is tempted to urge that the "junior nurse" would have shown her sense in refusing to run the risk of being killed rather than that she should have obeyed so senseless an order. I write the more feelingly on the question because upwards of twenty years ago I nearly lost my life in exactly the same situation, as special in an isolated ward, on a terrible case of hydrophobia.

I have always thought that the Matron and Sister of the Ward lacked common sense in placing an unexperienced young girl on such a case, and that my own nimble wits saved my own life and a horrible scandal.

With all the Matrons have written of a need for greater self discipline and unselfishness amongst nurses I heartily agree. I think many women who now enter hospitals expect too much, indeed, in some institutions, they are provided with many more luxuries than their parents can provide at home.

Yours sincerely, ELLA G.

SHOULD NURSES TAKE TIPS.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR EDITOR.—The day has gone by when nursing institutions can make hard and fast rules about "tips," and I might add "tippling" because my experience as a private nurse proves to me that these laws of the Medes and Persians—cannot be kept. In the rules of one hospital private nursing institution it is written down that a nurse is not to take wine—or presents of any sort. I belonged to that institution for some time—and left it because I did not like being forbidden to do things I had no inclination to do—but which sometimes it was almost impossible to avoid. The mere fact of a patient being desired not to give the nurse wine, gave them the impression she was inclined to take too much, and so inculcated distrust of one's moral character—and presents were often thrust upon one with the injunction "say nothing about it—what the eye does not see the heart does not grieve for." Surely the duty of those in control of nursing co-operations and societies is to select as members only women of tried good character, and as you say "leave those details to a great extent to the taste and sense of the nurse concerned." It is young male patients who seem unduly lavish in giving. This class of patient does need discouragement, and this can easily be done by a sensible nurse.—I had my lesson once when thanking a young guardsmen for magnificent silver gift. "Don't say another word please sister—thank old T—, he'll have to stand this damage for some time to come." Meaning to infer the silversmith would not be paid!

Yours, "PRIVATE NURSE."

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