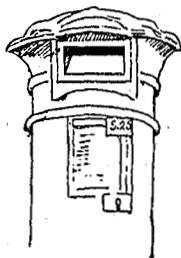


Letters to the Editor.

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.

PRINCE CHRISTIAN VICTOR MEMORIAL.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Will you allow us to appeal for assistance in carrying out the following project, which was organised towards the close of last year?

The sympathy evinced by our lamented and revered Queen Victoria in all the personal sorrows of her people arising from the South African war, had awakened a warm and grateful response in the hearts of the public, and it was then resolved to give expression to this all-pervading sentiment, and in some measure respectfully to reciprocate the sympathy which had been shown, by establishing a permanent Memorial of the grandson of the Queen, Prince Christian Victor of Schleswig-Holstein, who died in the service of his country in South Africa.

Although the circumstances under which this tribute would have been paid are so sadly altered, the love and gratitude of the Nation are only intensified; and the fact that our beloved Sovereign took the greatest interest in the proposed Memorial, and that it was one of her last wishes that it should be a success, not only makes it impossible to withdraw the plan of a collection, which might otherwise seem inopportune at the present time, but adds a pathos to the appeal which cannot fail to ensure its favourable reception throughout the country.

It is proposed that the Memorial shall take the form of a Fund for founding and endowing Beds in the Princess Christian Cottage Home for Disabled Soldiers and Sailors. This would be in harmony with the spirit and aims of the young Prince, who always had the interest of soldiers at heart.

Donations and offers of assistance in collecting may be sent to the Hon. Organising Secretaries, Office of the Prince Christian Victor Memorial, Horse Guards, Whitehall, S.W., or to the Memorial Fund at Messrs. Lloyd's Bank, 16, St. James' Street, S.W. Donations and Collections will be acknowledged in the Press.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) ROBERTS, F.M.
President of the General Committee.

(Signed) REDVERS BULLER, Genl.
Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Office of the Prince Christian Victor Memorial,
Horse Guards, Whitehall, S.W.

March 14, 1901.

MODERN FILTERS.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I was interested to note in your issue of last week that a new water-cart has recently been invented for the Army by Lord Dundonald, with the object of preventing the spread of enteric fever.

Your reference to a very successful water-cart invented, and used in India some twenty or thirty years ago, of which the filtering material was composed of sponges, sand, animal charcoal, etc., leads me to crave your indulgence for leave to trespass upon your valuable space in order to express the hope that, in any new water-cart supplied to our Army now-a-days, these filtering materials will be taboo.

No one who has resided in hot countries, or, indeed, in any country where the water supply is not above suspicion, will minimise the necessity for drinking only boiled or filtered water—both precautions are probably best, if one is sure of the efficiency of the filter. But, having lived for some time in a tropical hospital, to which filters of the above description had been supplied, and having conscientiously used them, I came to the conclusion, universally endorsed by other members of the community, that they were worse than useless, forming a trap for the concentration of germs, and that boiled water passed through these filters, became, in the act, once more impure. If, in the light of recent knowledge, we consider how difficult it is to make a sponge sterile, my meaning will be grasped. The interstices of the sponge, and of the soil provided by the charcoal and sand form a nidus for micro-organisms of all descriptions; in short, if a filter of this kind is to be kept in a real condition of efficiency, such constant cleansing and renewal of filtering materials is required that for practical purposes it is useless, and more, it is probably a source of danger.

The ideal method of rendering impure water pure is by distillation; and now that such a simple and convenient still as that supplied by the Gems Supply Co., and recently described by you in the NURSING RECORD, is obtainable, probably distillation will be increasingly adopted in stationary hospitals. But in a cart which follows a moving army this is not a feasible method of purifying water. Then why not use a filter of the Pasteur or Berkenfeld type? Both of these have the merits of combining extreme simplicity with efficiency, and are therefore ideal for the purpose. Do not let us go back to the clumsy methods of thirty years ago, which, however much they may have been in advance of anything then in vogue, have indisputably been condemned by the progress of scientific investigation, and of our consequent knowledge at the present time. Knowing how all-essential is a pure water supply in hot countries, and how many lives are lost where this fails, I feel strongly on this question.

Yours faithfully,

A PRACTICAL NURSE.

OPALITE.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Can any of the readers of THE NURSING RECORD tell me of hospitals where the theatre walls are lined with a preparation resembling glass? I should be glad to know if it is more or less expensive than tiles, and if it is altogether satisfactory. I am told that it cracks, after a time, like Parian Cement.

I am, Madam, yours faithfully,

M. HARRIS.

Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds.

[Opalite is used in the Eye Theatre of King's College Hospital, and in a ward at the London Temperance Hospital. We know it is very costly, and feel sure the matrons of those institutions will afford information on the subject.—Ed.]

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