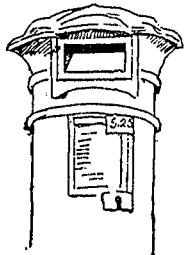


**Letters to the Editor.**

NOTES, QUERIES. &amp;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.*

**POST GRADUATE WORK.**

*To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—I sympathise with "Somewhat Rusty," but it is hardly possible for our "good general hospitals" to admit trained nurses for holiday work who have become rusty. There is no time in the wards nowadays for polishing up those nurses who have fallen behind modern methods, everyone is so exacting in their particular department that no Matron could take the responsibility of providing the up to date surgeon with a staff nurse who did not know his little ways. Moreover, it would be unfair to the probationers, who expect the "staff" to be ready to show them the right way to do their work. The remedy would be a Nursing College, where post graduate courses could be gone through, and where all technical details could well be taught, and new instruments and dressings and methods shown. Some day, if the millenium does not come first, nursing may be systematically taught like other professions; the work is so progressive that once trained is not synonymous with "up to date."

Yours,  
A COUNTRY MATRON.

**NURSING UNIFORM IN THE DOCK.**

*To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."*

DEAR EDITOR,—I was glad to see a suggestion last week from "One who finds uniform economical" that the Matrons' Council should memorialise the Metropolitan Magistrates to forbid criminals wearing nursing uniform in the dock. I approve the suggestion, but why is the Matrons' Council to be expected to do all the work for the profession at large? It is time the nurses had some organization of their own through which they could make their opinions and wishes known, and I hope after the Buffalo Congress the National Council of Nurses will be started in good earnest. The R.B.N.A. is no good for professional purposes—its managers are totally out of sympathy with modern methods.

Yours truly,  
A REGISTERED NURSE.

**THE CLEANSING OF THERMOMETERS.**

*To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—I was very interested in reading in the last issue of the *Trained Nurse* an article on the Bacteriological Examination of Clinical Thermometers as conducted by Dr. R. C. Rosenberger. It seems to me so valuable that I should like all nurses to read it, for certainly there is much still to be desired in many, perhaps most, hospitals with regard to the manage-

ment of thermometers. Do we not all know hospitals where there is one thermometer for the whole ward? It goes without saying that such a thermometer is used indiscriminately for mouth, axillary, and even rectal temperatures. Is it always washed, let alone disinfected, after use for each patient? Again, think of the various cases of phthisis, cancer, enteric, and other diseases to be found in a medical ward, and then meditate upon Dr. Rosenberger's reports. He states that where a thermometer is kept in a case with cotton saturated with one ounce solution of formalin or with carbolic, bacteriologic tests demonstrated such methods to be worthless, and that simple washing in water and wiping affords no protection. Colonies of Staphylococci have been found on thermometers used in cases of broncho-pneumonia, diphtheria, and pulmonary tuberculosis, which have been washed, dried with a handkerchief, and tested twenty-four hours later. Again, a thermometer used in a case of rheumatism, and washed immediately in 1 in 20 carbolic, was examined seventy-two hours later, and at the end of forty-eight hours' cultivation yielded twelve colonies. Cases of the same kind might be multiplied. It is, however, satisfactory to learn that a thermometer washed in water, immersed in corrosive sublimate for two minutes, and then returned to the case, was tested in various diseases, and in every instance it was found to be sterile. It is not surprising, in view of these experiments, that Dr. Rosenberger is of opinion that each patient "should be possessed of a thermometer as much his own property, and as sacred to his use, as his tooth brush," and that "where, for reasons of economy, this is impossible, the thermometer should be disinfected before and after using," for it is not unreasonable to assume, though experiments are not conclusive on this point, that transmission of bacterial disease by the thermometer is possible. When this is realized the happy-go-lucky use of thermometers, as at present practised, will surely be abolished, and the "ward thermometer" become as much a legend of the past as "the ward brush and comb." It is about time. I remember seeing at the Nursing Exhibition in 1896 some covered glasses for thermometers, in three different colours, so that those used for the different cavities might be kept apart. They seemed to me admirable, and worthy of universal adoption. I believe they may now be obtained from Messrs. Maw, Son and Sons, Aldersgate Street.

Yours faithfully,  
A LOVER OF REFINEMENT.

**A BRACING CLIMATE IN AUTUMN.**

*To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—Perhaps you, or your readers can tell me, through your columns, if there is any place (not too expensive), in Great Britain or the Continent, which is really nice and bracing during the months of October and November.

I do not want to spend the whole winter away from home, but there is a delicate boy who has been forbidden to spend it entirely here (at St. Petersburg), and if we could go anywhere that was really nice for the late autumn, that might be change enough for him.

The only place I know of is Devonshire, and that is as far from here as it is possible to be; if anyone will recommend me a nearer place I shall be grateful.

Yours truly,  
M. S. F.

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