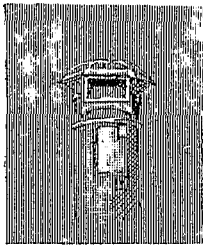


LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

(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.

Communications, &c. not noticed in our present number will receive attention when space permits.

FEEDING THE SICK.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Your observations in your Editorial of the 31st ult. as to feeding the sick were most valuable and practical. But, sir, this matter does not concern Nurses alone, but the relations and custodians of the sick; and who more fit to give the subject their thoughtful care, when once it is pointed out to them, than they?

It is so hard to persuade people that much that the well eat is most valuable to the recovering sick, wearied to death with the monotony of the sick diet—suited indeed to illness, but not to a hungry convalescent. I have seen an opulent invalid starving in the midst of plenty, because no one had the judgment, courage, or common-sense to feed him with some of the viands from their own table, withheld on the plea that poor "A. is still an invalid, you see, and we dare not give him well food, even though he is famishing for it."

I will just illustrate my meaning by an incident that came under my notice some years ago. A dear friend of mine was just slowly struggling out of a dangerous and exhausting illness, when one afternoon I called as usual to see her. The house was permeated by the savoury fumes of the viands in course of preparation for dinner. They had bad news for me: my friend had fallen-off in her food, and how to tempt appetite they knew not. I saw the pangs of hunger on that wasted face as plainly as though it had been written there. I left the room with her mother. "What do you think of B.?" she asked me. "We must feed her or lose her," I replied. "Let us have up the *ménu*." "For an invalid?" "Yes! for that very reason."

Amongst the fish were smelts (a favourite dish of my friend's). "When prepared, send up half-a-dozen, some slices of brown bread and butter, half a lemon, and a glass of the best champagne your cellar can produce."

In due time the order was carried into effect. We said not a word to our invalid, but just had the food taken to her. "You are going to dine to-day," I said; "take up a smelt in your two hands, head and tail fashion, and pick the bone clean." A faint smile flickered over the pale face, but the fish was eaten with evident relish, with just a *soupoon* of lemon juice over it. Then the turn of the bread and butter came, and then the champagne *à discretion*. The little meal was partaken of, Nurse wiped her lips, washed her hands, and we arranged the pillows comfortably, and softly left the room. A quarter of an hour afterwards our friend was in a soft sleep. We had another look at the *ménu*. From the confectionery I selected cream. "Give Miss B. some of that for her lunch to-morrow with some sponge cake. Say nothing about it till the time comes. If Dr. P. gives his consent, let her have the breast of a partridge for her dinner to-morrow with some good bread sauce, &c."

To make my tale short, my suggestions had the happy effect of awakening appetite, and our patient mended from that

hour. The story of the smelts was put abroad, and I know in some cases, and I trust in many more, called the attention of the laity to the supreme importance of feeding their sick with some of the food of the well.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

JUSTITIA.

SOUTHALL'S SANITARY TOWELS FOR LADIES.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Dear Sir,—I shall be obliged if you can find space to allow these few lines to appear in the *Nursing Record*. It will save me a lot of trouble in writing to the Private Nurses who wish to know, and save other Nurses perhaps the trouble of having to write to me.

The sanitary sheets made by us ought to be put to the fire before they are used; this will cause them to swell out to a great thickness, and will make them more cosy for the typhoid or lying-in patient who uses them. We do not recommend that they should be rinsed out after use. It is best to burn them at once, especially in typhoid (where the evacuations are so infectious); indeed, it was to do away with the troubles of the washing of infectious draw sheets that we designed them.

I am glad "Sister Isabel," "Nurse K.," "Nurse Florence" and "Miss Jackson" find the sheets so useful, and hope they will find this placing them before the fire all that is necessary. It is not so imperative to warm the "sanitary towels"; they are not tied up so tightly as the sheets.—Yours faithfully,

THE LADY MANAGER.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—In your note after her letter in to-day's issue you express the opinion that, unless "Justice" has a written and stamped agreement, she has not a legal claim, having rendered no service. Whether the prospective engagement amounted to an actual contract in this case does not appear; but I trust the B.N.A. will succeed in securing the recognition of the equitable claims of Nurses when their engagements are positive, though the absolute date may not be specified.

Written agreements in respect of matters of less than five pounds (£5) are exempt from stamp duty, and such letters, though unstamped, can be produced as evidence, providing the writing is identified. It may be that "Justice's" claim would be for less than five pounds.—Sincerely yours,

E. M. HOMERSHAM.

[We commend the suggestion contained in the above to our friends of the British Nurses' Association.—ED.]

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of my prize with great pleasure, and thank you very much for the honour you have conferred upon me. I am delighted with the book in itself, and very proud to think I have won it through your admirable Magazine. Again thanking you, with best wishes for the further progress of the *Nursing Record*.—I remain, faithfully yours,

ANNIE FOSTER.

Victoria Hospital, Burnley.

COMMUNICATIONS with and without enclosures have been received from Miss E. F. Boyle, Miss Coleman, Mrs. St. A. Horton, Miss M. Piggott, Mrs. E. M. Hendry, Miss Mary Sheehy, Miss E. M. Green, Miss Helen Dunn, Mrs. Harward, Messrs. Rowntree and Co., Miss E. Pell Smith, Miss L. E. Burgess, Miss M. H. Odger, Sister Rona, Miss Millhinch.

MRS. DUYCK FUND.—We beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of two votes for the British Home for Incurables, from Miss Gertrude Layard; also six shillings from the Sisters of the Hospital for Sick Children, Pendlebury, Manchester.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)