



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.

TRAINING IN NURSING FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—Your idea of training in nursing for medical students is not unknown abroad.

Some time ago, in going over the Maternity Hospital in Florence, I was told by the able young German medical director that all the resident students went through a course of nursing before completing their course. My surprise at this statement amused him. "Why not?" he reasoned, "they will have to treat babies, and should therefore know all about them." "But," I said, "do you really expect them to wash the babies?" "Certainly," he replied, "from the first, and to dress them too; no one can handle a new-born baby properly who has not learnt to do so, and done it, too, with the quickness needful in a training-school."

I may add the hospital was in admirable order, and that antiseptic precautions were more thoroughly carried out than with us. German exactness was evident everywhere. When, on emerging from its doors, I looked up at the beautiful row of fourteenth-century Della Robbia babies over the doorway of the adjoining Foundling Hospital, I felt interested to note that the picturesque and unwholesome "swathings" of that date are just the same as clothe the infants of to-day. Certainly training is needful to clothe a Florentine baby, and I have no doubt the students are thankful for the experience—afterwards!

Truly yours,
E. X. E.

"LITTLE MARY."

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—“Little Mary” suffers many things, not the least of them at the hands of hospital cooks, and digestions are ruined by badly-cooked and therefore unnourishing food quite as often as by stuffing luxurious diet. Personally, my “Little Mary” hungered after the flesh-pots of Mayfair when I attempted to get my “best American molars” through chunks of foreign meat and a variety of stick jaw messes served as sweets, which composed most of the dinner and supper diet in more than one hospital in which I have worked. The average hospital diet, in spite of improvements of late years, leaves much to be desired, and fresh home-made bread, well-cooked cereals, nourishing soup and tasty ragouts, to be got in every household abroad, are seldom served in our nursing homes. I am glad to see you lay great stress on dietetics in your *B. M. J.* educational scheme for nurses. It is high time to pity and consider long-suffering “Little Mary.”

Yours truly,
SOMEWHAT DYSPEPTIC.

KINDNESS.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—May I express how much I appreciated the “Talk to Nurses,” from Miss Fox, in last week’s issue. Would that all new probationers entering our training-schools this session would study her noble words and aims, and continue to work in the true spirit; “loving-kindness and skill are everywhere needed”—especially loving-kindness. A true nurse’s aim should be to be a comfort to the sick as well as a skilled attendant. Would that kindness of human to human were more abundant. What a difference it would make to most lives. It seems to me we want kindness more than any other thing in this material age.

Yours faithfully,
AN OLD MATRON.

Comments and Replies.

Probationer.—We should advise you to pay a visit to the London Shoe Company, Ltd., 116, New Bond Street, and ask to see Dr. Davies’ Triple Spring Arch Supports. You would probably find them a help to you.

Nurse Elsie.—The subscription to the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses is 1s. per annum, or 5s. life membership, so long as the Society exists for its present purpose. Application forms may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W. The Society does not register nurses, but was founded with the object of obtaining the passage of a Bill through Parliament providing for the Registration of Trained Nurses under the authority of the State.

Miss Edmonds.—The bathing of infants can only be taught by practical demonstration by one skilled in the art. Considerable practice is needed in order to become skilful and efficient. It should always be acquired on healthy infants, and no one should attempt to wash a sick baby who is not already dextrous. No sick infant should be submitted to the ordeal of unskilful handling and washing. It may make the difference between life and death.

Private Nurse.—You would find that a way of serving eggs, which is an acceptable change, is to bake them between two layers of tomato sauce in a buttered ramekin case. They should be just set. Served in this way they are, as a rule, much appreciated.

Notices.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Editor will at all times be pleased to consider articles of a suitable nature for insertion in this journal—those on practical nursing are specially invited. The Editor will also be pleased to receive paragraphs, such as items of nursing news, results of nurses’ examinations, new appointments, reports of hospital functions, also letters on questions of interest to nurses, and newspapers marked with reports of matters of professional interest. Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page XIV.

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