



## 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.*

#### ISOLATION CABINS ON BOARD SHIP.

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

DEAR MADAM,—By all means let the steamship companies provide trained nurses, but also for long voyages it should be compulsory to have isolation cabins. It is quite wrong that a passenger should have to share a cabin with a fellow-traveller suffering with follicular tonsillitis, whether she is a trained nurse or not. What would have been done with that passenger had her disease proved diphtheria instead of tonsillitis? I also have known passengers nearly die of sea sickness. It is too much the custom to make rude fun of this horrible suffering, and the lack of any knowledge of sick cookery on board ship is another inconvenience. Of course, if you are a *persona grata* on board you can induce the cook to provide a dietary after your own recipes. I once lived on such through the good offices of a wealthy traveller, but without his aid I should have been half-starved. A trained nurse would, of course, be empowered to arrange special diets for invalids, and this would be an immense gain. But the *isolation* question is of vital importance. I have travelled to the Antipodes in the same cabin with a "neurotic" and her caretaker. It was maddening. She spent many days in her bunk at a time, and loathed fresh air, slept in the day, and was awake most of the night; lights up, chattering, and misery, it wore me out. The first necessities on board ship are isolation cabins for sick and crazy people.

Yours truly,  
ANOTHER TRAVELLER.

#### THE RESULT OF PERSEVERANCE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Permit me to sympathise with "Perseverer" in her efforts to get admission to a hospital to learn nursing. I was not aware that such class distinctions existed in the choice of probationers, but understood that a good education, coupled with the necessary personal qualifications, were the essentials. I am more than sorry that such is the case.

Domestic service is one of the most honourable of callings, and surely one who, through sheer force of circumstances, can turn herself round and do what she can find to do, instead of sitting down and wringing her hands over her misfortunes, is the kind of woman to distinguish herself in any career, and why should she be debarred from doing so in the nursing profession? I have no patience with such snobbishness, and were I a matron I should welcome such a girl as "Perseverer" describes herself to be.

I wonder what class the private nurses "Self-

Respect" describes in her admirable letter were drawn from? It would be interesting to know.

My advice to "Perseverer" is to try once or twice again, and failing common-sense treatment at the hands of *Matrons*, to lay her case before the *Governors* of hospitals.—Yours truly,

Edinburgh.

INDIGNATION.

[The *Matron* of one of the most important Poor-Law infirmaries in London has already communicated with "Perseverer" offering to take her as a probationer if after a personal interview circumstances are satisfactory.—Ed.]

#### THE CURSE OF THE SALIC LAW.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Those whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad. The Tsar seems to be following on in that direction, and inviting destruction for himself and his House.

He is an adherent to the modern Salic law of Russia, a law that has destroyed every reigning family that ever adopted it, and which we may see to-day actively engaged in finishing off the Hapsburgs (Austria) and the Belgian Royal Family. The Tsar persuaded himself that a son was all that was wanted to further his power, and the son having arrived, he now decides that as there is, or will be, a fighting man, ready and willing to keep the old iniquities going, they shall be handed over to him intact.

Will that poor baby really be there in twenty-one years' time or so? I doubt it. But the working out of the Salic law results in a Republic, and that may arrive in Russia.

E. C.

## Comments and Replies.

Will the subscriber to the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses—post-mark of letter Bel—t, co. Mayo—who sent 5s. in a sealed envelope, but without name and address of sender, kindly communicate with the Hon. Secretary.

*Obstetric Pupil.*—The first examination of the Central Midwives' Board for its certificate will be held in June next.

*Housekeeper.*—The only method to keep down hospital waste is by constant watchfulness, not only as to outgoings but incomings—that is to say, that goods received are up to sample, because if an inferior article is supplied, it is manifest that the Committee which contracted for a certain article at a fair price is paying exorbitantly for an inferior one. Ceaseless vigilance is required as to the quality of linen, blankets, books, &c., if they are to be up to contract standard.

*Superintendent.*—Membership of the *Matrons' Council* is open to *Matrons* of hospitals, and *Superintendents* of nursing institutions who are trained nurses.

## Notices.

#### OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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