



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.

A MUNIFICENT GIFT.

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

MADAM,—My friend, Mr. E. G. Bawden, of the Stock Exchange and Clapton, has entrusted me with a sum in cash and securities of about £100,000, to be applied to purposes of charity and benevolence, and for the advancement of knowledge, especially in aid of human suffering.

After careful consideration, I have decided, with his concurrence, to apportion this sum, in the form of capital, to be vested in trustees, and to be known in each case as the "Bawden Fund," in the following manner:—

<i>For the Advancement of Knowledge.</i>	
Fund for advanced University education and research, to complete the sum of £200,000 to bring about the incorporation of University College, in the University of London	£ 16,000
Whitechapel Art Gallery...	2,000
Horticultural College, Swanley (for preparing women for emigration and colonial life)	1,000
Charity Organisation Society	3,000
<i>Emigration.</i>	
East End Emigration Fund (Joint Committee)	10,000
United British Women's Emigration Association	2,000
<i>Hospitals.</i>	
King Edward's Hospital Fund	5,000
London Hospital	5,000
City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, Victoria Park	3,000
Poplar Hospital for Accidents	3,000
National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic	3,000
Royal Waterloo Hospital for Children and Women	2,500
Cancer Hospital, Brompton	2,500
German Hospital	2,500
Queen Charlotte's Lying-in-Hospital	2,000
Clapham Maternity Hospital	1,000
Royal Hospital for Incurables, Putney	2,000
<i>Holiday Funds.</i>	
Children's Country Holidays' Fund	10,000
Women's Holiday Fund	2,000
Factory Girls' Country Holidays' Fund	2,000
<i>Convalescent and other Homes.</i>	
Metropolitan Convalescent Institution	2,000
Mrs. Gladstone's Free Convalescent Home for the Poor	2,000
East Anglian Sanatorium (Maltings Farm Branch)	1,000
Kelling Open-Air Sanatorium	1,000
Mary Wardell's Convalescent Home for Scarlet Fever, Stanmore	1,000
Homes for the Aged Poor, Anerley	1,000
St. Mary's Home for Working Women	2,000

<i>Institutions for Homeless and Crippled Children.</i>	
Dr. Barnado's Homes	2,000
National Refuges for Homeless and Destitute Children	2,500
Invalid Children's Aid Association	2,000
Haven for Homeless Little Ones	2,000
Cripples' Home and Industrial School for Girls	1,000
National Industrial Home for Crippled Boys...	1,600
	£100,000

I need hardly add how great a privilege I feel it to be that it should fall to me to make this announcement of Mr. Bawden's noble gift.

Yours truly,  
EDGAR SPEYER.

SISTERS' SALARIES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—It is not often that I differ from your editorials, but I must protest against the deductions and inferences you draw from the fact of the salary of a Sister in a county hospital being small. It is small, and no one would wish for a moment to deny the fact. But I think, Madam, you make a great mistake in supposing that therefore the Sister's services are not valued as they should be. I know of no employment in which a woman receives a more frank and generous recognition of her value than falls to the share of a county hospital Sister. Money is not the only reward given to good and useful work, and there are very many things in this world that are more important. The Ward Sister may not receive "adequate" remuneration in pounds, shillings, and pence, but she receives a social position second to none in the nursing world, she holds a post of authority and responsibility, she enjoys, if she is a suitable person, a good deal of prestige in her hospital circle, she is employed in the most congenial nursing work there is, and if she works in a voluntary hospital she has the pleasure of knowing that she herself is as truly contributing towards the maintenance of the patients within the walls as any ten-guinea subscriber. Therefore supposing the Sister is working in a hospital where she is treated as a gentlewoman and a responsible officer *should* be treated, I do not think she has any reason to complain if her salary allows only of the simple life in her hours off duty. There will always be many posts which are coveted and prized, not for their money value, but for other and higher advantages. It will be a bad day for England when office and authority is regarded solely as a means of obtaining money, for it has always been her boast that she has never lacked plenty of sons and daughters ready and willing to do good work, to accept heavy responsibilities, for the sheer pleasure of the work and the responsibility rather than the remuneration given. I should be sorry to think that our nursing profession numbers no members who "set the game above the prize."

A Sister came to me the other day and said, "You see, Matron, it does not even run to a new evening frock." And I entirely agreed with her. A Sister's salary does not "run to an evening frock," and I doubt if charitable institutions, supported by voluntary subscriptions, would have any right to increase their Sister's salaries to allow for the provision of sufficient evening frocks. When a subaltern joins a cavalry regiment at a salary of 6s. 8d. per day, he knows

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)