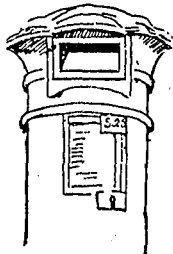


Letters to the Editor.

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.

OUR GUINEA PRIZE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Many thanks for cheque for one guinea received this morning.

I was most pleased and surprised to be the winner of the Puzzle Prize for last month.

I am, yours faithfully,

GERTRUDE THOMPSON.

31, High Street, Southampton.

THE POSITION OF THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL IN THE TRAINING OF NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Will you kindly allow me to make a few remarks in your valuable paper "On the Position of the Isolation Hospital in the Training of a Nurse."

I quite agree with Dr. Gordon that infectious nursing should be taken first. No doubt the work is as hard, and very often more anxious, on account of the number of very acute and delirious patients found in the wards of a fever hospital, but there are more nurses for the number of patients, more time allowed off duty, and you will never find the rush and worry one finds in a large general hospital, therefore I think it is a much better and gentler beginning. I began in a fever hospital at the age of 20, and I am certain, had I begun in a general hospital first, I should have found it much harder. From my own experience I have found that the personal care of the patient is better taught, there is more time devoted to the comfort of the patient, and what I call the finer arts of nursing, and I think there can be no better beginning for a nurse than this. Then again, the fever trained pro. does not adopt the tone of knowing everything, but looks forward to her general training, whereas the general trained nurse comes for her fever training with an air of superiority, and is inclined to teach rather than be taught. The nice little attentions we give our patients bore her, and she looks on it as unnecessary work. As regards fever training and private nursing, the experience, apart from the knowledge of fever nursing, is invaluable, the probationers are trained to nurse private patients in fever hospitals, and to give them the delicate attention which the ordinary patient does not want.

Dr. Gordon, in his article, mentions "menial" work. I don't like the word "menial," it should

never be used in connection with nursing. What we do is for the comfort and welfare of our patients. There is nothing "menial" in nursing.

Yours faithfully,

MARGARET JACK.

A HAPPY SUGGESTION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I wonder if amongst your weekly competitions you could find an occasional one specially for hospital children. I am not begging here for the large town hospitals, where I have heard that school is conducted every day, and the children, therefore, have their time fully taken up, but for the smaller country hospitals, their branches, and convalescent homes, of which I have some personal knowledge, to which the children are sent for two or three months' change of air. Hospital children, as far as my experience of them goes, seem generally very bright and clever. I have seen wonderful things modelled in clay; I have seen beautiful mats, of wonderful designs worked in cross stitch; pretty baskets made by hands, the owner of which had one leg encased in a splint, and the other leg in an extension; pencil drawings quite too wonderful when you considered that the drawer thereof was only thirteen years of age, and had never had a lesson in his life. I did know a little hospital boy once, who at his wits' end for paints calmly took some flowers that were by his bedside in a vase, and crushing the blossoms with a little water, obtained what he wanted, some colours to paint with. And I also knew another boy who invented shadow-graphs—at least as far as he himself and the ward were concerned, he invented them. With the aid of a penny looking glass and some old lantern or photo slides, he managed to throw pictures on the wall opposite his bed by sunlight. Are not such children worth a little attention?

Well, even a competition for the best little essay or letter, or even a copy-book, showing the greatest improvement from the first to the last page, would be no inconsiderable help and encouragement, just specially for hospital children, for, of course, these poor little crippled and bed-ridden children cannot compete on equal terms with their strong, healthy, whole, board school brothers and sisters.

I wonder if you will consider this subject of special prizes, for these dear children, for dear, indeed, they are to all who know them.

I am, yours hopefully,

NURSELLA.

[We are very glad to accede to this suggestion, and we offer a Prize of 2s. 6d. to any child under twelve years of age for the best little essay of 250 words on "How I Amuse Myself in Bed." The essay must be written and composed by the competitor, and that to which the Prize is awarded will be published in this journal. The rules for the competition will be found under the heading of Notices on Page 190.—Ed.]

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