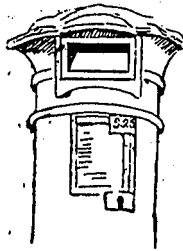


Letters to the Editor.

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 STANDARD IMPERATIVE.

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

MADAM,—I am exceedingly sorry that Mr. Holland should have considered my letter *re* the training of nurses at the "London" discourteous. It was quite unintentional. As a person I know nothing about Mr. Holland, neither was my letter written in my personal capacity, but as a nurse expressing views that are common subjects of discussion in the nursing world. I simply appended my name because I object to anonymous letters. But one cannot help feeling that his letter savours a little of the youth who sat upon a wall and called names, and was rather surprised when a few home truths came back in retaliation. I allude, of course, to certain insinuations made by Mr. Holland, respecting the arrangements at a hospital which he leaves nameless in your issue of a few weeks back.

I make no attempt to answer his letter, since it was in no way an answer to mine. Neither do I see that it requires one, but two points strike me in it. Mr. Holland harks back to the subject that Sir Frederick Treves would not have employed one of the "London" nurses for the King if he had thought her "ill trained." I never said the "London" nurses were "ill trained." Far from it, that is a word Mr. Holland has introduced on his own account. "Insufficiently" I said, but he omits to answer the simple question that I put to him, whether this particular nurse had had seven weeks' training at the Tredegar Home, and one year ten months and one week's training in the wards of the Hospital only, or whether for this important case it was thought expedient to send for someone who was equipped with a little longer experience. Also Mr. Holland's statement that the London Hospital nurses do none of the cleaning of their wards is a trifle startling, and sets one wondering how, in the face of those pathetic appeals for funds, which come to us periodically through the post, the Hospital is able to afford the enormous staff of ward maids which this must entail.

Yours faithfully,

W. F. HADFIELD.

Malvern.

THE NEED OF TRAINED NURSES IN PRISONS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The most vital question to the public generally which has recently been brought forward in your Journal is the need of trained nurses

in prisons. If no other result accrues from men magistrates sentencing political women prisoners to gaol in the second division, there to hob-nob with criminals, we shall now learn the truth of this treatment of prisoners by a class of persons largely uneducated for their duties. Mrs. Duvall's blistered feet, from wearing the horrible shuffling shoes, not made, I imagine, to fit any human foot, and the horrible garments and food, to say nothing of many disgusting arrangements which apparently do not present themselves to the ladies of title who visit Holloway—themselves untrained in many practical essentials—should have a rousing effect if given out at a public meeting. I know the policy of these brave women is to take punishment silently, but for all that, the time will come when they can make good use of their unnecessary sufferings.

SANITATION.

[In reply to Earl Russell's question in the House of Lords last week: Why His Majesty's Government did not treat Women Suffrage demonstrators (they injured no one) as first class misdemeanants, Earl Beauchamp replied that these ladies had committed an offence against the ordinary law, and the Secretary of State saw no reason to interfere with the discretion of the magistrate, who had placed them in the second division. In this connection it is interesting to recall the fact that when a Duchess committed a felony by burning her late husband's will, and was condemned to six weeks' imprisonment for the crime; also when the Transvaal Raiders, through whom many persons lost their lives, were sentenced to imprisonment, all were quite luxuriously housed at Holloway. They were, of course, permitted to wear their own clean clothes, and comfortable furniture, curtains, screens, bedding, dainty food from outside, attendance, and every amelioration of confinement were permitted. British justice, especially where women are concerned, is quite an unknown quantity. To define it is the chief reason we require the vote.—Ed.]

"THE SPIRIT OF A PANKHURST."

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

DEAR MADAM,—We acknowledge "original sin," why not "original spirit." Helping a fashionable friend at a children's tea party, I was recently immensely amused. Around the festive board were seated some two dozen offshoots of the prosperous, and a judicious selection of innocuous viands was spread thereon. I ran around offering milk and water, bread and butter, and currantless cakes, and with one exception all the children, boys and girls, ate what they were offered. One straight-browed little damsel of four sat stolidly, and would neither eat nor drink. At my repeated hospitality she shook her fat curls and said: "I want boufe." At last, observing my bewilderment, her left-hand cavalier explained: "She wants beef."

"Beef!" I exclaimed. "Beef at a tea party! I never heard of such a thing."

At which the whole table giggled. Then little straight-brows showed her mettle. She slipped off her chair and squared up to me.

"Thomas (the coachman) says," she informed me, with great calmness and deliberation, "that

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