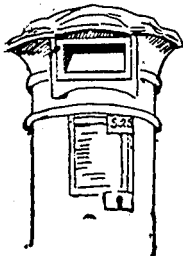


Letters to the Editor.



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,—Thank you for sending me the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. I am very proud to be the successful winner of the Guinea Prize.

Yours sincerely, D. COLLINGS.

Doctor Barnardo's Homes,
Barkingside, Essex.

THE RIGHT OF THE DESTITUTE SICK.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In her interesting Holiday Paper in your last issue, Miss Beatrice Kent drew a contrast between hospitals in this country, which only admit as many patients as they have beds for, and the hospitals of the *Assistance Publique* in Paris where no case is ever refused. Our voluntary hospitals can, it is true, refuse cases when they have no beds, but I think I am right in saying that our Poor Law infirmaries are, like the Municipal Hospitals of Paris, bound to find accommodation for all destitute sick seeking admission.

Yours faithfully,
TRAINED NURSE.

WALKING PARTIES OF LUNATICS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The attention which is being directed in the Press just now to the presence of patients from an asylum in the streets of a neighbouring town recalls vividly to my memory the experiences of my childish days, when my home was near a large county asylum. Batches of the inmates, both men and women patients, were taken out for walks in the neighbourhood daily, twenty being, I should say, the very lowest number placed in charge of two "keepers," as they were then called. In those days there was no question as to what happened. The keepers, leaving their charges waiting for them outside, would disappear into a public-house near by for a quarter of an hour at a time, or longer, and I, partly adventurous, partly pitiful, and wholly fascinated, would approach nearer and nearer to the waiting group, undaunted by the grimaces some of them made at me, until one of the number gave chase, and I scampered, terrified, to place the protection of the vicarage gate between me and my pursuer, mentally resolving that if only I "won home" I would venture no more near parties of strolling lunatics; with always the same result, that the next time I saw them waiting in the road the spell

of them was upon me, and I inevitably gravitated in their direction, with usually the same consequence.

I remember, too, with what interest I used to watch one of these "walking parties" crossing the vicarage field, through which there was a public pathway, to see whether its members would get through it in safety, or whether the vicarage cow, which had a playful and quite harmless habit of charging at passers by, would give chase, and cause them the same race for safety which they so often caused me. I am afraid my feelings were not un-mixed with joy when I saw a wild stampede of lunatics for the stile, and "Sally," in full chase behind.

I do not for a moment suppose that in these days any attendants would leave walking parties unguarded while they take refreshers at wayside houses, but I have described to you what actually occurred in my own experience. Since I have come to years of discretion, and more especially as a nurse, I have often thought of the dangers of the situation.

Yours faithfully,

REMINISCENT.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON TUBERCULOSIS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Permit me to direct your attention to the latest announcement of the International Congress on Tuberculosis.

The section meetings will take place the week beginning September 28th, and the Exhibition will continue for the entire three weeks, from September 21st to October 12th.

The programme for the week includes two plenary sessions, one on Monday, September 28th, at which it is hoped that President Roosevelt will preside, and the other (probably) on Saturday, October 3rd. In accepting the presidency of the Congress, President Roosevelt promised that if it were impossible for him to preside at the general sessions he would delegate Secretary Cortelyou to represent him. Each of the seven sections into which the Congress is divided will hold two sessions daily, except on the days on which the plenary sessions will take place.

In connection with the Congress a series of lectures is to be given in Washington, and in other cities by distinguished foreigners.

Yours very truly,
JOHN S. FULTON,
Secretary-General.

Comments and Replies.

Maternity Pupil.—The reason why the dressing of a baby's cord seems such a "simple matter" is that owing to the aseptic precautions and cleanliness now practised it is extremely rare for anything to go wrong; but septic infection of the cord, which used not to be uncommon, is a very serious condition, often causing loss of life to the infant.

Mrs. Ellison.—Write to the Matron, enclosing a stamped envelope, and ask for an interview.

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