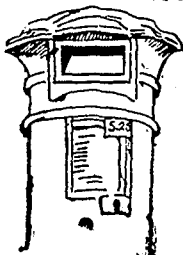


Letters to the Editor.



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.

PRESENTS AT CHRISTMAS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am glad to see that the question of the giving of presents at Christmas to officials of various grades under the Metropolitan Asylums' Board is to be discontinued. Frankly, I do not believe that there is a Matron under the Board who would wish to receive a present from any nurse which was not entirely spontaneous, but, human nature being what it is, nurses do not like, when a subscription list is started, not to subscribe to it. I fear moral courage is not strongly developed in most nurses, and no one cares to be singular, and say that she cannot afford to subscribe. Indeed, as a rule, the contribution would be given very willingly, if the nurse could afford it. We know, however, that the majority of nurses are entirely dependant upon what they earn, and out of their small salaries have to make provision for their annual holidays, not to mention old age. It is true the salaries of nurses under the Asylums Board compare favourably with those given by some hospitals, but what is even £36 a year, less superannuation deductions, considering all that has to come out of it? I think the decision of the President of the Local Government Board will be a relief to many, the Matrons included, for they would prefer not to accept gifts from members of their subordinate staff, but unless they have the foresight to veto any subscription for this purpose beforehand, they find it difficult to refuse a gift when it is offered on Christmas morning. Personally, I think every Matron is wise who lets it be definitely known that she does not desire, or accept, gifts from the nursing staff.

I am,

Dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

INDEPENDENCE.

A QUARANTINE COTTAGE.

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

DEAR EDITOR,—Knowing how difficult it sometimes is to find a suitable residence for quarantine, I would like the readers of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING to know about a charming cottage that I have spent a week of quarantine in.

It is at Banstead, in Surrey, prettily and suitably furnished, possessing a large garden, which is at present uncultivated. There is a very convenient gas stove, where many dainty dishes may be cooked by the nurses themselves, or they may

hire a woman to cook for them. There is a nice bathroom, the water for which may be heated by using the hall-sitting-room fire.

It is a mile from the village of Banstead itself, a very charming walk. Half-an-hour's walk one is on the beautiful Epsom Downs, with their wide stretch of common and keen exhilarating air.

For shopping expeditions, a walk of three miles into Sutton is enjoyable; there is also a very good service of trains to Waterloo, Wednesday being the cheap day.

In summer time it is one of the most beautiful spots in Surrey, an ideal place for picnicing and for gathering of wild flowers. One might, indeed, live the simple life there, returning to the busy, dear old work-day world with renewed love and energy for work.

Miss Raynes, the Matron of the Cuddington Isolation Hospital, Banstead, to whom the cottage belongs, will gladly give any information required.

SALUS INFIRMORUM.

Eastwood, Weybridge, Surrey.

CO-OPERATIVE TRAINING.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Having been trained in special lines of nursing in special hospitals, I consider that such practical experience is very advantageous. Once we nurses have a Central Nursing Council, I have no doubt nursing education will be better organised, to the mutual advantage of hospitals and nurses.

But until we have our Central Authority would it not be possible to get some sort of system of co-operative training? In this hospital the nurses will never see an infectious, maternity, or mental case. Our medical students will study all three—the latter in the extensive wards of the large Asylum at Claybury. I wish nurses were given the same advantage.

Yours truly,

A. Z.

Comments and Replies.

Private Nurse.—Have you tried the "Nurse" Clinical Thermometer, supplied by Messrs. Lewis and Burrows, Ltd. The depôt nearest to you, at which they are supplied, would probably be 64, Baker Street, W. The price of a two-minute thermometer is one shilling, and one which registers in 30 seconds eighteenpence. Although they are so inexpensive, those who use these thermometers speak highly of their reliability.

Miss Simpson.—We cannot advise you to enter any hospital as a probationer which does not give a three years' course of training. You would find yourself very much handicapped at the conclusion of your training if you had entered a hospital for any less period.

OUR PUZZLE COMPETITION.

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

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