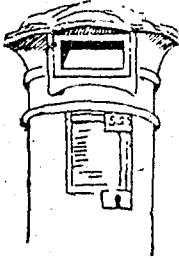


## Letters to the Editor.



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.

### NOTES OF CASES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I entirely agree with your correspondent, "Ward Sister," as to the importance of note taking by probationers, and should like to see it the usual rule. In days gone by, when hospitals were understaffed and nurses overworked, it was impossible to give due prominence to this important side of their training, and I remember how, with little assistance from the Sisters or Staff Nurses under whom I worked, I kept a notebook during my probationary days and entered in it the practical facts I gleaned each day, and the habit then formed, and the information gained, have been of immense value to me. Now that it is better understood that nursing schools are places where instruction should be given, and not just agencies for getting the domestic work of the wards done on the cheap, the right of probationers to systematised instruction in practical nursing details is conceded, but such instruction, when given by Ward Sisters, loses half its value if it is not committed to paper. In the first place, the probationer's notes can be supervised and corrected, and it is thus possible for the instructor to learn to what extent the pupil has profited by her teaching—what she knows and where she is weak; and in the second, the probationer gains in clearness of thought and accuracy of expression, for unless knowledge is put into definite words, it is apt to be but partially assimilated.

No less an authority than Bacon has told us that writing makes an "exact man," and it is by committing our knowledge to paper that we learn both its extent and its deficiencies. Another advantage of note taking is that it is a help for probationers to learn how to arrange their ideas in an orderly way, and to express and write what they know clearly, for this is an art in which they are often deficient, and they are, therefore, unable to do themselves justice in a written examination.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

TRAINED IN THE EIGHTIES.

### HOSPITAL KITCHENS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—As I was unable to be present at the meeting of the Matrons' Council when Miss Musson read her paper on "Hospital Kitchens," it is with great interest that I have read it, and the discussion which followed it, in the Journal. The supervision of the kitchen and its workers in a moderate sized hospital is usually in the province of the Matron, but in many instances she has had

no training to fit her for this work, and yet it is most essential, both to the comfort and health of the patients and staff, and to the economical management of the institution, that the supervision should be expert and thorough. It is one of the benefits of membership of the Matrons' Council that we have the opportunity of listening to papers by our fellow members dealing, in an interesting way with questions in which we are vitally interested. I have gained both pleasure and profit from membership of the Council, and wish that every Matron in the Kingdom could have the enjoyment which I have had in connection with it. I am looking forward to the publication of Miss Helen Todd's paper re "Hospital Laundries," as they also are a difficult problem for Matrons.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

M. M. C.

## Comments and Replies.

Will the nurses who have written to us desiring to be School Nurses please communicate with Miss H. L. Pearse, Education Offices, London County Council, Embankment, W.C.

*Co-operative Nurse.*—The question as to whether a nurse should return from a case on the death of the patient is entirely one for the relatives to decide. If they wish her to stay and complete the week upon which she has probably entered she should do so. The right kind of nurse is often a great comfort, and can be of use in many ways. The wishes of her employer should therefore be always ascertained.

*Mrs. Prior.*—A baby is sometimes fractious because it is thirsty and needs a drink of water. In this case a few teaspoonfuls of cool water will allay the restlessness.

## Notices.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is the official organ of the following important Nursing societies:—

The International Council of Nurses.

The National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

The Registered Nurses' Society.

The School Nurses' League.

As their official organ is widely read by the members of these societies, the Editor will at all times be pleased to find space for items of news from the Secretaries and members.

Exclusive news being copyright, papers quoting from our columns must give the name of this journal as the source of their information.

### OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

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