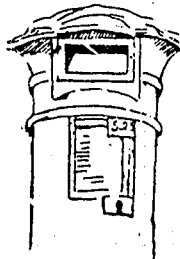


Letters to the Editor.



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.

THE TEACHING OF NURSING BY NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am glad to see that the question of nursing being taught by nurses is being taken up now. There are probably many doctors who lecture continually for the St. John Ambulance Association on Nursing, and others, who are well up in the subject, but there are general practitioners who are arranging and giving the lectures for the Red Cross Society in their own towns who find the nursing lectures rather trying. There must be very few doctors who nurse their patients, and there are many little things, as every nurse knows, that need experience and practice, as well as theory. Matrons, Sisters, and trained nurses are considered capable of lecturing to and teaching probationers in a hospital, women who are taking up nursing professionally, thoroughly, and seriously, and have to be taught many things of which home nurses would probably never hear. Surely they would also be capable of giving home nursing lectures—and although the lectures for the Red Cross Society have a serious object in view other than home nursing, the syllabus is practically the same as for the ordinary St. John nursing lectures.

Miss Brunning thinks that nurses would not have the time necessary, and that their patients need them in the evening when lectures are generally given; certainly a private nurse in practice would find it difficult to give the time. Patients and friends might very reasonably object, and a private nurse does not usually know how long she will be with a patient, but might have to leave for quite a different or distant place before the course was finished; but all are not private nurses; there are Superintendents of Homes and Institutions, Matrons, Assistant Matrons, Home Sisters, Ward Sisters, or Staff Nurses of hospitals who could easily spare one evening a week to give the lectures in their own district. A nurse when off duty for a certain time has that time free, another taking her place in the hospital or with the patient; a doctor does not know if he will be called away just as he is starting out, or if he will be fetched away from the lecture; he cannot feel free in the same way that a nurse does when off duty. This, of course, is a minor detail, but I think a nurse, except, perhaps, a private nurse in active practice, would find time as easily as a doctor. School nurses, district nurses, health visitors, and inspectors of midwives generally have their evenings free, many are also lecturers on nursing, hygiene, first aid, elementary anatomy, etc.

I am a trained nurse and certified midwife, and have had long experience in hospital as a nurse, also experience as Sister. I have done district nursing, lecturing, and private nursing, and therefore can speak from a professional point of view from many sides.

I am, yours truly,
E. S. SILLS.

Oakham.

Comments and Replies.

C. S. T., Edinburgh.—There are Y.W.C.A. homes in Rome, Turin, and Milan. Address at latter: 7, Via Guiseppe, Prina. The address in Paris is—Students' Hostel, 93, Boulevard St. Michel.

Private Nurse, Liverpool.—A very satisfactory cover for an indiarubber hot-water bottle may be made by knitting in a soft wool of medium thickness a strip, slightly wider and double the length of the bottle, and then stitching the two sides together. The top should be finished with a crotchet edging, in which a cord can be run.

NOTICE.

POLICLINICO HOSPITAL, ROME.

All applications received by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick have been forwarded to Miss Dorothy Snell, Matron of the Policlinico Training School at Rome, to whom applications for the position of Staff Nurse may now be sent direct.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

Those desirous of helping on the important movement of this Society to obtain an Act providing for the Legal Registration of Trained Nurses can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

No habitual reader of this journal can, we feel sure, be content to stand aside and let others found the future Profession of Nursing. Now is the time to help.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Editor will at all times be pleased to consider articles of a suitable nature for insertion in this Journal—those on practical nursing are specially invited.

Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

Advertisements and business communications should be addressed to the Manager, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 11, Adam Street, Strand, W.C.

OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)