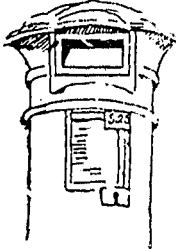


Letters to the Editor.



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 PRIZE COMPETITION.

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

Miss Lukey begs to acknowledge with thanks the cheque for 5s. for Competition prize.

University College Hospital, W.C.

THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I note in the press reports of the dropping of an operation case by porters at a London hospital that when the jury "deplored the neglect of those concerned in not taking proper precautions in removing the patient from the operating theatre," the Coroner asked: "Where was the neglect?" (as if there were none), and continued: "Do you fix the neglect upon anybody in particular?"

The foreman of the Jury then made the statement: "We cannot do that because we do not know who would be the responsible person."

This is an extraordinary answer. Surely the Treasurer and Committee are responsible to the public, not only for the expenditure of trust funds, but for the management of the hospital and the safety and well being of the patients, anyway those gentlemen were represented by a lawyer at the inquest, who, I am glad to see, made the statement that the authorities intended to take steps to prevent a recurrence of such an accident.

The constitutions of many of our old general hospitals are most autocratic, and on the majority of their house committees there are no professional persons who could, and should, give information on scientific details.

It is incredible that had there been one independent surgeon or trained nurse on the Committee that stretchers which are devoid of straps would be provided for the removal of insensible patients placed on an air bed. Thirty years ago it was a rule in the hospital in which I was trained for the accompanying nurse to walk close beside the stretcher and rest her hand lightly on the patient for safety's sake.

Then hospital porters should be taught first-aid in so far as the carrying of the sick are concerned.

The narrow isolation of hospitals in London does not make for up-to-date efficiency either in hospital management or nursing—in fact quite the reverse. Co-operation and comparison of new methods would be of great benefit not only to members of hospital committees but to hospital officials. Those of us who subscribe to the upkeep of hospitals

would like to see a more liberal and intelligent spirit in their management.

Yours truly,

A HOSPITAL GOVERNOR.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In reading of the inquest on the poor patient who was dropped by the porters, I could not help thinking of the different way things were done both at the Lambeth Infirmary in my training days, and also at the Polyclinic Hospital, Philadelphia, where I worked for some long time. There the resident doctors helped, with the nurses, to remove a patient. I cannot remember a single instance of any of the porters doing it. The doctors and nurses always did the moving. It was therefore rather a shock to me that it should be necessary for the foreman of the Jury to remark that a nurse should have been with the patient. Why certainly; where else should she be?

Yours very truly,

E. F.

Fleet, Hants.

[We think it would be well that a medical officer should accompany the nurse in attendance upon all serious major operation cases from the theatre to the ward, and we agree with "A Hospital Governor" that porters entrusted with carrying patients should be carefully instructed in the best methods of doing so.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Mrs. K., London.—Among the best training institutions for children's nurses are the following: (obtain prospectuses from the Lady Superintendents):—The Norland Institute, 10, Pembroke Square, London, W.; the Princess Christian College, 19, Wilmslow Road, Withington, Manchester; Liverpool Ladies' Sanitary Association, 27, Leece Street, Liverpool; St. Anne's Church of England Nursery College, Pittville Circus, Cheltenham; St. Mary's Nursery College (for educated Roman Catholic girls), Highgate Road, London, N.W. To the Norland Institute the honour belongs to being the pioneer of this work. The salaries of nurses when trained range from £24 to £80. About £40 is the average.

Notices.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR MAY.

In future the new set of questions will be published in the last issue each month. The questions for May are as follows:—

May 6th.—What are the chief points which should be emphasised when visiting the homes of the poor by a nurse who is engaged in combatting tuberculosis?

May 13th.—What are the most important points in nursing cases of anaemia, and why?

May 20th.—How would you teach probationers to fill and apply (1) hot water bags; (2) ice bags?

May 27th.—How would you prepare (1) the room; (2) the bed; (3) the patient in a confinement case?

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