

SLEEPING WITH COTTAGE PATIENTS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am glad to see notice drawn to the habit of cottage nurses sleeping with their patients. I fought against it, and got myself very much disliked by the Committee in consequence. My experience is that it is unhealthy, and often indecent. I thank you for the continued high nursing standard of the JOURNAL, and wish it every success in the coming year.

Yours truly,
DISTRICT NURSE.

BACHELOR BISHOPS AND INFANTILE MORTALITY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Frederic Harrison, in his memoirs, when balancing our social gains and losses, places among the gains the reduction of the birth-rate. In the same volume he says that "The family must always remain the true source and centre of our social life."

Miss Phipps will doubtless consider the Bishop of London as a higher authority. For my own part, however great his moral and spiritual gifts, I should not regard a Priest (I use Miss Phipps' own word) as the best authority on a matter connected with family life, and I still contend that (with the highest possible respect for his well-known personal qualities—which I did not call in question as they are beside the point), a bachelor, who is placed above the struggle for bread in which the great majority of his countrymen are engaged, has no right to judge men and women in this matter.

Your correspondent is mistaken in thinking that I have a contempt for motherhood, though I must confess that I have a higher ideal of motherhood than the mere physical fact. Some of the finest mothers have never had children of their own. To how many mothers in this land is the full "glory of motherhood" possible? A mother should be able to devote all her energy, time and thought to the care and training of her children, or to the broadening of her own outlook, and the training of her own faculties for their eventual benefit. But the great majority of mothers may think themselves fortunate if they have time and strength to attend to the bodily necessities of their children, and must leave the higher and more beautiful part of their duties to strangers.

On one point I am in agreement with Miss Phipps—that much poverty is caused through selfishness, though I fear we should differ as to whose selfishness. Truly, as the wise man of old said, "The destruction of the poor is their poverty," a simple fact which has proved a grievous stumbling block to many would-be social reformers.

May I tender my sincere thanks to you for allowing space for this discussion?

Sincerely yours,
JESSIE HARVEY.

BEDSORES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I read with interest Miss Cameron's note on zinc ointment and castor oil as a dressing for bedsores, or threatened bedsores. I hope she will not put me down as one of those who "show a great unwillingness to experiment with this mixture" when I say that in a hospital to which I was appointed Matron I found zinc ointment used as a routine practice for preserving backs, and, with the consent, of course, of the medical staff, other methods which proved equally efficacious, were substituted because the zinc in the ointment was found to stain and practically ruin the draw sheets. I do not overlook the fact that Miss Cameron suggests a dressing applied on lint and strapped on, but I do not think this would overcome the difficulty, and further, I have learnt to dread the use of strapping in cases liable to bedsores, because, if the skin is so tender in one spot as to threaten a bedsore, the surrounding tissues will also be lacking in vitality, and the application and subsequent removal of strapping may bring about the very catastrophe one desires to avert. It would be interesting to know Miss Cameron's experience on both these points.

Yours faithfully,
MATRON.

THE NIGHTINGALE MEMORIAL IN INDIA.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—If you can spare room for it in your columns, I should be very grateful if you would kindly publish the enclosed short account of an interesting afternoon spent recently when our Nightingale Memorial, which has just been received in India, was to be seen. I think I may safely say that your paper is the most widely read among nurses out here, and I am very anxious that those nurses who have subscribed to the Memorial, and are never likely to see it should know as much as possible about it. Later on I hope you will also be so very kind as to publish our statement of accounts in connection with it. We are at present a little short of the amount needed, but a few of us will make up the amount failing more subscriptions. Thanking you very much for your courtesy in dealing with all matter in connection with the Memorial sent to you in the past.

Yours faithfully,
J. E. PRITCHARD,
Hon. Sec. Nightingale Memorial.

Calcutta.

[The interesting paragraph appears in another column.—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION FOR DECEMBER.

December 30th.—Describe the Rôle of Insects in the production of Disease.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)