

COTTAGE HOMES FOR NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I should like to say a word about the cottage homes for nurses. It sounds ideal, but in reality it is not so. I have both lived alone and seen others who live alone, and in both cases I say *don't*. It is terrible to get your meals for yourself, and eat them alone; it comes in the end to no meals. It is worse to know there is no one in the house, whatever happens, people living alone get into a rut, and fearfully precise; else it all goes and they become slovenly.

I have seen both these states in nurses, and other people. Personally, I gave up a post I really liked, because of the loneliness. Once I was ill alone; and I knew a nurse who died alone.

I thought you would like to hear from someone who knows what it is like to be absolutely alone always.

Yours faithfully,

E. E. PLEASE.

South Street, Dorking.

SOFT PILLOWS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—It is not only the Tendring Guardians who have no use for soft pillows, so far as their poor old people are concerned. A member of the Guildford Board of Guardians, at a meeting recently, objected to the cost of two feather pillows for the use of the Superintendent Nurse. He was quite plaintive on the subject. The gentleman in question, when assured by the chairman that two pillows were necessary, said, "When a person came there (to the infirmary), to give her life, or the early part of her life, to the service of that institution, he did not think she wanted such luxuries." The discussion arose over the estimates for furnishing the new Superintendent Nurse's room. Several Guardians voted against the expenditure, and said there was plenty of furniture lying about in the building good enough for the purpose, "Worthy of the apartments of a Peer of the realm," said one.

Ultimately, the estimates for new furniture were agreed to—and let us hope the nurse will recline in comfort (after an arduous day), on the hair mattress, feather bolster, and two feather pillows—of which the Guardians in question sought to deprive her. If there is one luxury a tired nurse appreciates more than another, it is that "little Heaven here below," her little "beddie ba."

Yours truly,

A SUPERINTENDENT NURSE.

COUNTRY WORKHOUSES AND NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The statement made in the summer by the President of the Local Government Board that the shortage of nurses in the Poor Law Service was merely temporary has done untold harm. The truth is it is almost impossible to get nurses, even of the roughest type, for country

workhouses. In this town I recently visited a public institution where a housekeeper and two rough girls are employed in cleaning, and the former bewailed her difficulties. "Impossible to get maids, even of the roughest class," she said, "and the two I have been licking into shape for the last three months have both just gone as nurses to the workhouse." With you I say "Poor old people."

Yours truly,

POOR LAW GUARDIAN.

THE VALUE OF SILENCE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—Most trained Nurses are admirable in their trying work; but there is one very important point which should be far more strongly impressed upon them by doctors than it is, namely, the effect of talking much to their patients.

Relations are only allowed into the sick-room to talk for strictly limited periods, but some nurses chatter incessantly to their patients, and several cases of the serious effects thus produced, have come under my personal observation, especially upon women after childbirth, and upon persons suffering from shock and from apoplexy.

In the two latter cases I have known nurses make frequent efforts to rouse patients by asking them how they feel now, and whether they can hear and understand what is being said, &c. The value of silence, and also of darkened rooms, in these cases cannot be too well understood by those in whose hands rests so grave a responsibility as the care of a human being at such a critical time.

Yours &c.,

MARCHOGES.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

November 22nd.—What are the causes of tetanus, and what is the nursing treatment?

November 29th.—Mention some of the chief preparations of opium with their usual doses. What are the symptoms of an overdose?

OUR CHRISTMAS COMPETITION.

Four Five Shilling Prizes will be awarded in December for the best toys made at a cost of not more than 1s. The toys must be sent to the Editorial Office, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, with a coupon in the issue of Decemr 6th. They will be sent to Superintendent Nurses for distribution amongst the children in workhouse infirmaries.

OUR ADVERTISERS.

We would remind our readers that they can help THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING by dealing as far as possible with advertisers in the paper and getting their friends to do likewise. Only the most reliable firms are accepted by the management.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)