

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.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

COUNTING THE COST.

County Hospital Sister: "The absolute need for economy is becoming serious in this hospital, as the surgeons' orders are often now turned down by the management, and if patients cannot have the necessary appliances for their recovery and comfort, what is the use of science? We used to order unlimited water-pillows, water beds, mackintosh, supplies of clean linen, and extra diets; now we are told they cannot be supplied, everything is so much more costly, and the new rich apparently are not the type of people who have any interest in hospitals."

[It is high time both rich and poor understood how costly scientific medical treatment is, and always has been, to say nothing of being clean and comfortable. People who give and people who take, take everything for granted (including nurses). How many of the latter know the price of ward stores, linen and diets? Under the scheme of education for probationers drafted by the General Nursing Council instruction will be given in these practical details.—ED.]

PRECAUTIONS FOR PREVENTION OF BEDSORES IN HELPLESS CASES.

A. C.: "First absolute cleanliness, body washed at least four times in 24 hours, more frequently if incontinence. Wash with soap and water, using the palm of the hand, so getting good gentle friction on prominent parts. Dry well, and use spirit and a good dusting powder, equal parts zinc and starch. The white of an egg with 2 oz. of brandy used alternately with the spirit is very good; the albumen makes a good protection for the skin. The slightest sign of reddening should be reported to the doctor. A water-bed or pillow to ease pressure, and no creases in the sheet, and as much movement of the patient as possible will prevent bedsores. No patient of mine ever got a bedsore."

SERIOUS SUFFERING TO MANY PATIENTS.

Paying Patient: "Whilst an in-patient recently at a London hospital I observed one very serious matter which needs drastic reform, and that is the disinclination of probationers, whose duty it was, to give patients the pan when asked. There appeared to be a rule that pans and slippers could only be given at stated times; this really caused serious suffering to many patients, and is indefensible, especially with children. The students or visiting staff were in the wards many hours a day, and, of course, no attention was given during their visits. We were always told 'Sister expects this, that, or the other,' as an excuse. Irritated beyond measure one day, I

said, 'Does Sister expect this child to mess its bed?'"

From Another Out of Date: "I, too, have been a patient in a general ward, it is still a nightmare to me. The slap-dash casual way the nursing was carried out—patients told they must wait for bedpan after their first dose of castor oil after an abdominal operation, charts marked without temperature taken, children allowed to be dirty in their cots and then scolded."

SPIRIT OF WISDOM.

Miss Mary Kerr, Liverpool: "Thank you for your lovely editorial last week. I do hope all the nurses in this city will rally to the General Nursing Council and help it to build up the future of nursing with the 'Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding.'"

A St. George's Nurse: "I much enjoyed editorial last week, and do wish the nurses would wake up to the wonderful chance they have got through the General Nursing Council to raise our splendid profession."

NEW THOUGHT.

Miss M. M. G. Bielby, Cranford, Middlesex: "Those of your readers who were interested in the subject of New Thought, concerning which Miss Good recently gave a lecture at 10, Orchard Street, may like to know that there is a vast literature on it, and books may be bought for as little as sixpence and a shilling. At 43, Great Portland Street, W., they would find a large stock of such works, and cultured, kindly directions from those in charge as to the best selection to make if they are quite unacquainted with such subjects. In my experience nurses greatly extend their opportunities for usefulness by acquiring this knowledge, and it is set forth simply by many writers so as to be available for all."

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Miss Mary Emily Gridley, Toronto:—Have posted you the Act. See Clause 3. So glad to hear you intend to apply for registration on English Register. All reliable information appears in this Journal. We are hoping the Register will be open at an early date.—ED.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

March 26th.—What precautions do you take when nursing a helpless patient, for the prevention of bedsores? At what stage would you report a threatening bedsore to the medical practitioner in charge of the case?

April 2nd.—How would you care for the following Ward appliances:—Mackintoshes, test tubes, hypodermic syringes, window blinds?

OUR ADVERTISERS.

Do not omit to buy, as far as possible, everything you need from "Our Advertisers," and to recommend them to your friends. They are all first-class firms.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)