

in fevers spread by contagion or infection. The three principal disinfecting agents are fresh air, hot air, and chemical air. Personal disinfection may be wrought by the use of fresh air, in addition to the use of carbolic acid and Sanitas. Clothing and bedding should be placed in an atmosphere of abnormal heat. Sick-room disinfection requires the exclusion of air, and a pan of sulphur placed in the centre of the room. Sprinkle over it a few drops of spirits of wine, and burn till exhausted.

NURSE LUPTON:—

Disinfection: to purify from infection. To disinfect a room when in use the floor should be sprinkled with some disinfectant fluid every day, and a sheet steeped in carbolic lotion hung at the door, and always kept wet. All vessels should be washed, first in carbolic lotion, and then in hot water, before leaving the room; and soiled clothes steeped in carbolic lotion. The room must be kept scrupulously clean and well ventilated; and a fire if possible. The most useful disinfectants are carbolic lotion (1-20 to 1-40), Condy's fluid, Sanitas, Eucalyptus, Thymol, chloride of lime. When in vessels they should be changed frequently.

MRS. CHAMBERS, M.R.B.N.A.:—

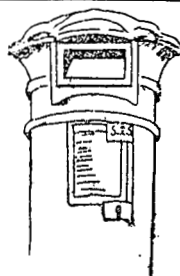
Disinfection is purification of every kind, either by fresh air, cleanliness, or chemical substances, these agents acting either by destroying or dispersing the poisonous germs emanating from the sick. The disinfectants now generally used are carbolic acid, chloride of lime, Sanitas, Condy's fluid, chloride of zinc and charcoal.

MISS KEEVILL:—

The term disinfection is used to signify the destruction of infectious matters in the air, clothes, beds, surface of the body, &c. Two of the best known means used for disinfection are the fumes of sulphurous acid, and the exposure to a temperature of not less than 212 deg. Fahr. of all bedding, linen, &c. A five per cent. solution of carbolic acid, Condy's fluid, and chloride of lime, are among the most used of several disinfectants.

TEACHER: "And how do you know, my dear, that you have been christened?"—Scholar: "Please, mum, 'cos I have got the marks on my arm now, mum."

WOMAN may never be elected to Parliament, but she will always be speaker of the house.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

(Notes, Queries, &c.)

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.

We shall be happy to answer, as far as we can, all questions submitted to us.

AN UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Dear Sir,—I imagine there are few of my Sister Members of the R.B.N.A. who have seen the brief report in your issue of the 20th inst. of the occurrence at our last Annual General Meeting without a feeling of deep regret. Under our present journalistic arrangements it will be some months before Members can be put officially into full possession of the facts; but that is no reason why they should reserve their opinions, as the matter involves a question of principle, and facts can very well be left to take care of themselves between now and next Christmas. Now, how stands the matter?

Ever since our Association was formed Members have met twice a year—once in London, principally for pleasure and social entertainment; once and in the summer, for our Annual General Meeting in the provinces. The country gatherings, more important in an Association sense than the Metropolitan, are on the lines of "powder and jam," and combine business with pleasure. Now, what is the business? Evidently to discuss *our own affairs*. Members meet the Executive, and the Executive render up an account of their stewardship during the past year, and it is quite within the privilege of any Member present at these annual meetings to express any opinion (in a proper spirit), favourable or unfavourable, with respect to the conduct of the *affairs of the Association* by the Executive, or to make any suggestions, or express any views that may conduce to the *welfare* of the Association. And in my humble judgment these expressions of opinion ought, in every way, to be rather encouraged than quashed, as they evince a healthy spirit of interest in the *well-being* of our Association. But, as a Member, I do most *intensely deprecate* any attempt on the part of any Member or Members present at our Annual General Meetings to overstep the limits of these fair and reasonable *privileges*, and to import into our discussions *outside and personal* matters that have *nothing to do with the affairs of our Association*; and I do so on the grounds—first, its infinite vulgarity, as tending to lower the tone of our meetings, and as being altogether out of unison with that spirit of amity, fairness, and common-sense, that for the most part distinguishes the assemblages of English men and women, whether for the purposes of business or pleasure, or, as in the case before us, both combined.

Its infinite absurdity! How any Member or Members could ever imagine that she, he, or they could be allowed with impunity to waste the time, hinder the business, mar the harmony of the meeting, over a "thing of sound and fury signifying nothing" (though *meaning* much), is past my comprehension. Why, any one of us can see that if this kind of thing went on, and Members were permitted to ventilate their personal grievances, and indulge in petty animosities, and thereby stir up elements of strife and discord, our meetings would become a bye-word and reproach to us, and lose all that was pleasurable in them and all that was refined.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)