

A WORD FOR THE MONTH.

"There is no vocabulary which can overstate what I feel about the nurses trained in our voluntary hospitals. No surgeon can afford to neglect an opportunity of paying tribute to the work of the nurses. Much of the reputation we have built up for ourselves and for our hospitals is dependent as much on the beneficent activity of the nurses as on the skill and attention of the physicians and surgeons."—*Lord Moynton*

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.

PEACE, REPOSE, AND REFINEMENT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I wish to write to you regarding the Rest Home for Nurses (Casa di Riposo) at Fiesole, Florence, Italy.

I applied, last November, to the Directrice for information.

The reply was delightful and from the moment I read it, I decided to go to the Casa di Riposo for my month's holiday in April, 1934.

It was my first time abroad, I went alone, spoke no Italian but was quite confident that the welcome would be warm and sincere at my destination—The Villa Belvedere, Fiesole.

I was not disappointed, in fact I was more than charmed. Everyone and everything was so very nice at the Casa di Riposo. I spent a most delightful holiday there and now feel that I have got a real "Home" to go to, in Italy, at any time.

The President, the Contessina Margherita de Bellegarde, is most delightful and makes one feel happy in being there.

Signora Petranele, the Directrice who is in charge of the Casa di Riposo is also most delightful and so good to every one. The whole atmosphere of the Home is truly one of peace and repose and refinement. That is greatly enhanced by the beauty of the lovely surroundings. It is all so very nice that one is tempted to give up all thought of sightseeing, further afield.

Any one going to stay in Casa di Riposo, Fiesole, Italy, has a most delightful time to look forward to.

It is all so very charming.

Yours sincerely,

ELLEN J. M. SAMSON.

3, Pentland View Terrace,
Roslin, Scotland.

THE TELEPHONE MOUTHPIECE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Now that the winter months once more bring round the usual crop of pulmonary ailments, as well as of serious diseases, may I draw attention in your columns to the danger of the spread of infection through the mouthpieces of telephones, a danger considerably increased since the automatic telephones have been installed.

With the old type of machine it was possible to use a glass mouthpiece—if one supplied it at one's own cost—which could be thoroughly and frequently disinfected. With the new automatic model this is no longer possible. The utmost one can do is to smear it over *in situ* with some disinfectant. Yet a moment's thought will show how real is the danger. In a private house, or public office, one

person who is incubating for influenza or pneumonia may infect many, owing to using an infected mouthpiece and one after another the staff may go down, with the consequences of disorganised homes, disruption of business, increased claims on insurance societies, sickness, suffering, danger to life, and in some instances death, preventable and avoidable.

And think of the condition of the public telephones after use by all and sundry. Indeed, it does not bear thinking about, although they may be periodically disinfected, as I believe is the case. Is it beyond the wit of man (or woman) to devise some cheap cap for fixing over the mouthpiece, which might perhaps be supplied from an automatic machine, and thrown away after use? It is a question worthy of the attention of the Minister of Health and his chief medical officer, in conjunction with the Postmaster-General.

I am not an alarmist, but I am a hygienist. I believe that prevention is better than cure, and I am impressed with the potential dangers of the telephone mouthpiece.

Established customs, especially when established by authority, are so easily taken for granted, and so readily acquiesced in, but I hope that those interested in public health questions will turn their attention to the telephone mouthpiece and to devices for keeping it hygienic.

Yours faithfully,

HYGIENE.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Sister M. Alacoque, Fiesole, Villa S. Girolamo, writes:— "The Community of San Girolamo greatly regret to see by the *B.J.N.* that you have been ill. We send our deepest sympathy and prayers, hoping that before long you are quite your energetic self again. I always look at Council Meeting report B.C.N. to see if the three dear names I know are there, then I know all is well. May God bless and spare you long to carry on your wonderful work in the loving wish and prayer of us all."

[Such a sweet message from dear friends of the Community of San Girolamo in their lovely retreat at Fiesole; their prayers have done wonders we feel towards our recovery.—ED.]

NOTICES.

AS THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is a monthly paper the Editor will be greatly obliged if items of news which the readers desire included are sent to her as early as possible, as they often arrive just after the Journal has gone to press.

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PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR DECEMBER.

What is understood by the term Transfusion? Discuss points of importance in regard to recipient and donor, and (a) the preparation for the operation, and (b) the steps in the operation.

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