

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



[The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this Department.]

PARATYPHOID

DEAR EDITOR: Will you kindly explain in one of your numbers what pyrotyphoid is?

Canada.

E. M. G.

[We believe our correspondent has in mind paratyphoid, a name given to a group of low fevers closely resembling true typhoid in some of their symptoms but of different microbic origin. There are many varieties. The diagnosis is made by microscopical examination of the blood.—Ed.]

MISTING OF EYE GLASSES

I

DEAR EDITOR: In reply to the question in the June JOURNAL, how to prevent eye glasses from misting, in an operating room, I have found this process very good: polish the glasses with dry soap, do not use water.

West Virginia.

HELEN EGGLESTON, R.N.

II

DEAR EDITOR: In reply to M. D. N's request for some relief for the mistiness of eye glasses, I would like to tell her of a "pencil" that I purchased at a jeweler's store, but it bears no name nor manufacturer's name. One day having mislaid my "pencil" I rubbed my glasses with a dry cake of common yellow laundry soap, afterward polishing them with soft tissue paper, and found it just as efficacious. The "pencil" is perhaps more convenient and can probably be purchased at any optical goods store at a cost of twenty-five cents.

New York.

(Mrs.) D. W. Howe, R. N.

JOURNALS ON HAND

DEAR EDITOR: The Boston Nurses' Club, 839 Boylston Street, Boston, is prepared to help out any society or individual wishing to have a complete file of THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING. We have volumes ii, iv, v, vi, incomplete, and with duplicates. We have volumes iii, vii, viii, ix, x, complete, and probably could supply the later years. We have none of volume i. We hope anyone wishing back numbers of the JOURNAL will apply as we are accumulating a binding fund.

Massachusetts.

E. O. BOSWALL.

[Nurses who were interested in Miss Boswall's article in the February JOURNAL on "The Nursing of Quadruplets" will be sorry to learn of the death of "Virginia" at the age of eight months. The other three were reported as thriving.—Ed.]

REPUTATION

DEAR EDITOR: In the May number of the JOURNAL I was very much interested in Mary A. Smith's article on "Reputation," and wonder if I, a rank outsider,

might answer it. As I belong to the much-maligned class of experienced nurses, I feel that I cannot allow her insinuations to go unchallenged that it is the experienced nurse alone who causes the remarks overheard by her on the train, and many others of like character. I have had eleven years of private nursing and one and a half years of hospital work, and I am acquainted with both graduate and non-graduate nurses, and I am of the opinion that the article is very one-sided.

I do not say all experienced nurses are as careful as they should be, but I know of a great many more graduate nurses whose reputation is far from clean than of their sisters without a diploma. Some years ago, in a Pennsylvania town, there was a severe outbreak of typhoid fever, and some forty or fifty nurses from outside towns were called in. The conduct of those nurses, all graduates, still furnishes the topic of conversation in that place. Kindly be a little more generous to the experienced nurse, for she fills an unrecognized, but important, place among the poorer people where the graduate will not go.

M. S.

Pennsylvania.

[It is only fair to allow the experienced nurse to present her side of the question, but we must say again that no good will come of calling each other names. It is the woman herself who counts most, whether with or without training. We have no quarrel with the honest, faithful, experienced nurse, who pretends to no training, and who does the best she can without it, but we do object to the woman who has been dismissed from a school without a diploma calling herself a trained nurse, or to one who has learned nursing only through correspondence doing so. These are the women who do harm.—Ed.]

TIME OFF DUTY

DEAR EDITOR: Will you kindly advise me through the JOURNAL just how much rest a nurse is entitled to on private duty? I am an old graduate but have lately come to a new field of nursing and find great difficulty in getting the required amount of rest, as the people here have not been educated as to what is due a nurse on duty.

G. S. E.

Michigan.

[It is impossible to lay down definite rules in regard to such questions, as circumstances vary so much that what is possible in one case is inadvisable in another. If a whole community is blind to the nurse's need of sleep and exercise, the physicians may be asked to help educate them. A particular family may sometimes be enlightened by explaining that if it were only for one case, a nurse could devote her entire time to her patient, but that as she spends her life in nursing, she must have some sleep and some fresh air daily in order to pursue her calling and continue of service to those who need her.—Ed.]

UNIFORMS IN PUBLIC PLACES

DEAR EDITOR: I wish to heartily endorse a letter which appeared in the JOURNAL some time ago on the wearing of uniforms in public by nurses. I never approved of it, and the longer I live the more confirmed I become in my views. Many, many times has a loud-voiced, gum-chewing, uniform-clad nurse, doing everything possible to attract attention, mortified and provoked me so I wanted to run her to cover and give her a good lecturing. Concerted action on the part of superintendents of training schools could easily abolish the practice.

Illinois.

R. B. G.