BLASTOMYCOSIS

Dear Editor: I have recently taken care of a patient suffering from blastomycosis. I am interested to know what experience other nurses have had with patients having this disease.

Massachusetts

N. G. W.

OLD COPIES OF THE JOURNAL

Dear Editor: I have the following back numbers of the JOURNAL which I am willing to send to any one who will pay the express or parcel post charges on them: Volume XVII complete; Volume XVIII, excepting August, 1918; and Volume XIX, excepting December, 1918, and July, 1919.

2125 Amsterdam Avenue, New York City

EMMA HOLMES.

A LETTER FROM A NAVY NURSE,—FROM THE U. S. S. RELIEF

March 29, 1921.

My last letter ended abruptly, as we had just reached Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and there were many things requiring additional attention, such as shore leave, restocking our pantry, etc. We are still in the bay, an important adjunct of the Atlantic Fleet. Of course, there are some pessimists who will say: "Women on shipboard with the Fleet? It can't be done!" It *can* and is being done successfully and if every man tries as hard and is as keen concerning Navy regulations and general deportment as are the Navy Nurses, Uncle Sam will be able to perform great deeds, for we look upon this as very serious work—not as a pleasure trip—and the dignity of our position is of great consequence to us. I believe we are being accepted as sailors. When we first set sail, bulletins were carried by word of mouth to all parts of the ship when one or more of us looked pale, but these bulletins have ceased and all the nurses are proving themselves as good sailors as can be found. Even those who felt badly at first were plucky enough to report on duty every day. But I am sure you want to go over this wonderful "Master Hospital Ship," and I invite you to inspect her with me, although you will be a silent companion and I will not be able to hear your expressions of approval and appreciation. She is 483 feet long, 64 feet beam, has 64 water-tight compartments, and is reported to be so safe that could her funnels be plugged she could go under like a submarine with perfect safety, or she could be rolled over and would always right herself. She is a beautiful ship of about 10,000 ton displacement, is painted white with a green stripe from stem to stern. This green stripe is the uniform of a military ship. Were she a Red Cross hospital ship, according to the provisions of the Geneva convention, she would have a red band instead of the green band. Painted on the side of her hull and on the side of her stack is a large red cross. Every thought has been given to the care of the sick and the practical manner in which the details have been arranged to save time and energy of those in attendance is really wonderful since, as you know, when time as well as the nurse's strength is saved, efficiency is increased. In the arrangement of the largest wards, you will find quiet room, linen room, and pantry (or diet kitchen) in one end; the dressing room and toilets at the other end. Since you so well know hospital work, you can readily appreciate the desirability of the location of these divisions. Also, in looking over our wards, you will notice that the lighting system is worthy of special comment. In the ceiling are high, soft lights, shaded so that the person lying in bed does not look into a light but it is permitted to shine on him from the back. For reading or for the convenience of the ward officer or nurse, a portable light fits into a socket