

LETTERS FROM READERS

The editors are not responsible for opinions expressed in this department. Letters should not exceed 250 words and should be signed. When so requested, signatures will not be published.

Instructors Can Help

Nurses sometimes fail to understand that the semi-conscious patient, who is unable to talk, is able to hear. I remember an elderly lady who went into insulin shock. Quite a little time passed before the necessary glucose was injected. She rallied within an hour and, as soon as she was able to speak again, I asked her, "Did you hear us talking to you?" "Oh, yes," she said, "I could hear you, but I was just too tired to answer you."

Every effort should be made to keep apparently unconscious patients from suffering mental anguish from the conversations of careless relatives, and nurses who have not been told about this. Instructors can help by driving this lesson home: It is better to assume that the patient can hear at all times than to think that he can't and discuss his condition at the bedside.—JUNE E. HEYDT, R.N., Pennsylvania.

Interesting and Satisfying

Teaching home nursing is one of my most interesting and satisfying experiences in the field of nursing. From that experience there is also a challenge, one which should be met by every industrial nurse—to improve the health of every worker. A group drawn from the various departments of a large department store is one of the most interesting that can be presented to any instructor.

As a group they displayed more interest in food in relation to a well-balanced diet than any other subject in the course. They were impressed with the necessity of eating on time and not overeating. Making beds, taking temperatures, giving medicine and treatments were not neglected. One could not ask for a more serious group, all with average or above average education, also a morale which had been created by an effective personnel staff.

I feel that I am faced with two important problems: First, teaching the employee the value of proper diet. Second, the general health problems of our female workers who hold down two jobs—homemaking and business.—CORAL WALLICK, R.N., Indiana.

From Nurses in Service

I wish that censorship would permit me to tell you something of our life "down under." The Australian people have been most kind, and while war has made its demands on them, they have found time to extend a warm welcome to us and share their homes generously. It does much to ward off those waves of homesickness that everyone is subject to at times. Each day brings a new job, ranging from a simple transfer of a nurse to meeting

a procurement board and telling them how many pairs of stockings—and what sizes—the nurses will use in a year, how many bobby pins, not forgetting cold creams and perfumes; it continues to be a liberal education. It is a great privilege to be able to serve my country by serving the nurses of the ANC.—LIEUTENANT COLONEL M. JANE CLEMENT, ANC, Director of Nursing Service, Southwest Pacific Theater of Operations.

The following letter is shared with us by the *Alumnae News Letter* of Presbyterian, Chicago.

There was no one here to ready the buildings for us so . . . we begged, borrowed, and tactfully stole G.I. soap, mops, brushes, buckets, brooms, and hose from whomever we could. Then we chipped in everything from new towels and pink undies to old stockings for scrubbing cloths. I never thought to see some of my best dressed friends cleaning lavatories with Roger and Gallet's "Blue Carnation" on an old sock! And other scrubbing latrine floors on their hands and knees! We were soaked to the waist but we really went to town on that detail. It was simply terrific! Through it all, Captain Crout, calm and collected, laid the groundwork for the days to come.—SECOND LIEUTENANT S. G. C., ANC.

Missionary Nurses in India and Africa

While visiting in Ramapatnam I heard about one of our Telugu graduates serving in a nearby village, how she had treated the eyes of some little, naked, low caste children who hung around the center, and had taught them to be clean and reverent during Bible study periods. This nurse failed the government examination, but some who passed would not have been happy in a little village, entering into the home problems, and doing what she did so well. I feel proud of our new nurses, capable, able to supervise, able to assist the doctor in operations. I feel proud, too, of our nurses in the villages who have a desire to just live and work in a simple way with love for all around them. Whether in a flourishing, modern hospital, or in a little village center, this is our test.—HELEN BENJAMIN, R.N., Nellore, India.

My work in an East African mission hospital is most interesting. We are just four degrees south of the equator and at an elevation of over 5,000 feet. The climate and surroundings are delightful.

We have only one doctor on our field, so I am in charge of the hospital and two dispensaries. The