

## A COUNTRY HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN.

DR. R. L. CAUNTER (Somerset) writes: A lady in this district has started a small hospital for children, and she has asked me to make the knowledge in some way public to the medical profession. All children admitted must be "gentle" by birth, and must not be, nor have been, suffering from any infectious disease. The present house is temporary, but at Ladyday next a commodious farm-house (originally a model farm), newly built, with good grounds, out-buildings, etc., will be acquired. The county is healthy, and of course residents will have all the benefits of fresh milk and country fare generally. At present there is one trained and qualified nurse in charge with one servant under her, but the institution is at Ladyday to increase the nursing staff to three, and also of course the number of servants. There are four children in the present hospital, and vacancies for two; but at Ladyday it is supposed there will be vacancies for several more. All expenses are borne by the lady aforesaid, barring journeys to and from. The two conditions I have before mentioned are *sine quid non*. I am in charge medically, the temporary hospital being 1½ mile, and the future one a quarter of a mile from me. The lady desires that her name should not appear. Communications should be addressed to Eversleigh, Bawdell, Somerset, and not to my name.

## MENSTRUATION IN NURSES.

THIS subject is under discussion in some American periodicals. The *Nightingale* discussed the question whether or not menstruation should be regarded as disqualifying a woman for surgical nursing. Reference was made to the suggestion of a Chicago surgeon that the menstrual discharge rendered the nurse infective and unfit for service in obstetrical cases, hence she should be excluded from such work during her period. More recently a New York surgeon substantiated this inference in the presence of a large class by saying that it was an unwritten law in his practice to exclude menstruating nurses from all major operations. This law must, for many reasons, be inoperative. While it was acknowledged that the vagina contained bacteria and that the menstrual blood became disintegrated and rapidly offensive, the same was true of perspiration and other excretions, and it would be as rational to exclude every perspiring man from the operating room as to exclude every menstruating woman. Attention was called to the fact that if curetting and other operations would be performed upon a patient during menstruation with safety, it proved the surgical innocuousness of the menstrual discharge. Professor Goodell, when questioned upon this point, stated that it had never entered his mind for a moment, and that he could not imagine anything more ridiculous: that for years it had been his custom in every case to have the anaesthetic given by a woman, and that there were, at the same time, four or five female nurses present at each operation. He therefore regarded the point as unimportant.

## LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC., RECEIVED:

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## BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

A Surgical Handbook. By Francis M. Caird, M.B., F.R.C.S., and Charles W. Cathcart, M.B., F.R.C.S. Fourth Edition. London: Charles Griffin and Co. 1891.

The Neuroses of Development. By T. S. Clouston, M.D., F.R.C.P.E. Price, 7s. 6d. Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd. 1891.

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