

## THE MATRON.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Will you allow me to reply to your correspondent, "Perplexity," that tact may not be "truly described as duplicity, subterfuge, humbug," although these qualities form a great part of the tact of unscrupulous persons, and are demanded by them from others. I have myself at different times been blamed by an official for want of tact, and at other times told by him in plain words to lie. Nevertheless, there is tact without dishonesty. Your correspondent speaks of "the enemy," and military tact, or tactics, may include measures designed to deceive the enemy or not. Tact means feeling, and may be described as feeling one's way. It is making a choice of ways and times. To have in mind the mottoes, "*Festina lente*" (Make haste slowly), and "Everything comes to him who can wait," without relinquishing the object in view, is a part of honourable tact. A stranger coming to an Institution, excepting one who has received a special commission to reform "existing abuses," need not wonder if the abuses are not so apparent or so intolerable to those who are accustomed to them, and may expect to meet opposition if changes are proposed from conservatism, if from no worse motives. To energetically "wire in," as your correspondent says she did, may in many such a case defeat its own ends, and the reformer may shortly leave the scene having effected nothing and gained no credit, where better-considered and longer-continued efforts would have brought success.—I am, yours truly,

HOUSE SURGEON.

## COMPETITIVE PRIZE ESSAY.

## TENTH COMPETITION.

A Book of the value of One Guinea will be awarded for the best Essay on the following subject—

THE BEST SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FORMATION AND EFFICIENT WORKING OF A RESIDENTIAL CLUB FOR NURSES."

## RULES.

1.—Contributions must reach the Editor, at the office of THE NURSING RECORD, not later than April 25th, 1889, addressed as follows: "Prize Essay Competition, THE NURSING RECORD, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C."

2.—Manuscript must be written distinctly in ink, and on one side of the paper only, upon not less than 24 or more than 30 pages of ordinary-sized ruled sermon paper. The pages must be numbered and fastened together.

3.—The real and full name and address (stating whether Miss or Mrs.) of the Competitor must be inscribed on the back of each contribution, and notification of which Hospital or Institution the Competitor has been or is attached to.

4.—Trained Nurses or those personally associated with Nursing work only allowed to compete.

The decision of the Prize Essay Editor to be final, and any infringement of the above Rules will be considered a disqualification.

NOTICE.—The Prize Essay Editor will not undertake to return MSS. unless accompanied with a sufficiently stamped addressed envelope. In no case must manuscripts be rolled up when sent by post; they must be folded.

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SISTER, Male Ward. Salary £30, and uniform; also NURSES for Private Nursing—increasing Staff. Salary from £25 to £30, according to experience.—Apply, Matron, South Devon Hospital, Plymouth.

## NURSES.

WANTED, a trained LADY for District Nursing. Salary £1 1s. a week, share of furnished house, lights, firing, and servant's wages.—Address, Miss Williams, Symonds Street, Winchester.

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WANTED, immediately, thoroughly trained NURSE (Medical and Surgical). Salary, with indoor uniform, &c, £30 a year.—Apply by letter, enclosing copies of testimonials, to the Matron, Swansea Hospital. [2]

WANTED, a trained NURSE, for District Work in the East End of London.—Apply, Matron, 234, Burdett Road, E.

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Offices, Southwood Lane, Highgate, N. By Order of the Board, R. C. C. WHITE, Clerk.

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BOARD and RESIDENCE in Country House for Convalescents or Nurses requiring rest and change. Terms: Nurses, 15s. per week; others, £1 1s. References—Mrs. Stewart, Arrington, near Royston. [2]

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