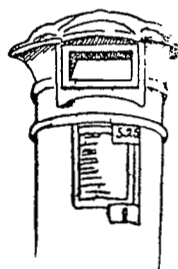


the points in different diseases, which a Nurse should be on the look out for; and, in passing, the drugs most frequently ordered, with notes of their effects; Fevers; and Obstetric Nursing, all find their place among the subjects. In city Hospitals, with a large medical staff, such lectures can be arranged for, the medical men are always most kind in giving up valuable time to teaching the Nurses. I think it is most desirable that such courses should be concluded by an examination. It seems to me that the plan of having a final examination in all the subjects at the close of the Nurses' three years' curriculum is a bad one. It must come at a time when the Nurse has her most responsible ward work, and has to be "crammed" for in a way that makes the work suffer, the Nurse, or both.

As a rule, the Nursing staff of a Hospital is drawn from all ranks in the social scale, and necessarily embraces minds trained in very different educational standards. It is, therefore, desirable to make certain that the Doctor's lectures have been understood and grasped by all, and it is at this point that the Matron's, or Home Sister's class, is invaluable. A few questions on the last lecture will elicit the points which have not been grasped, and, at the same time, refresh the memory on the points that have been understood, and so prepare the Nurses, without undue pressure, for the examination. A very practical turn may also be given, for the Matron is better able than anyone else to emphasize to her Nurses the bearing of the facts they have learnt, on their daily work in the wards. The opportunities thus afforded of making practice follow theory and of strengthening the one by the other are innumerable. Nurses have not time to think out those things for themselves, but most have a strong practical faculty which helps to fix the theory in their minds once the connection is pointed out to them.

The Matron's classes are, besides, a great power in her hands; what she sees of the work in the ward she can use as a text for her teaching, and in the wards she can point the moral of the class subject. Were Nurses to be taught in this way, 'training' would be brought to bear on them at every point of their daily life. Placed by the Matron under the Sister, whom she considered the best qualified to deal with the character of the new Probationers, the novice would be initiated into her ward work in a systematic manner. The Matron's class would then quicken her observation and intelligence about the practical details, and the Doctor's lectures would give her an intelligent interest in the work in which she was learning to take her part in. To be really useful, the three parts must be worked to

gether. The Sister must realise that she is working with her Matron, the Matron must feel the value of the Sister's part, and must carry down to detail the lessons of the Doctor's lectures. Thus we would have a threefold cord of helpful instruction, and where such is efficiently given we may be sure that when the three years' term is complete, we will have really trained Nurses.



## Letters to the Editor.

(Notes, Queries, &c.)

*Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

### MISS FISHER'S CASE.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

DEAR SIR,—I have read with considerable interest your issue of 2nd inst., but in its perusal two points strike me forcibly. The first is, one sympathises at once with the injustice that has been meted out to Nurse Fisher, and apparently the management at the London Hospital leaves something to be desired. But is there positively no reverse to the medal? Does not the Matron or some one connected with the management lift hand or pen in their own defence? The second point is in reference to an article headed "Infant Feeding." You condemn in no measured terms the use of sweetened condensed milk; but though by implication and inference you point, on the other hand, to what is really an ideal food for infants, viz., unsweetened condensed milk, you say never a word on the subject, notwithstanding the fact that unsweetened condensed milk obviates every objection brought forward as a reason why condensed milk (sweetened) should not be used. Unsweetened condensed milk supplies *all* that is necessary for the growth of children and contains *no sugar*, and as sugar is the sole objection to good condensed milk, I think in your next issue the strictures on condensed milk should be somewhat modified.—Yours faithfully,

A. J. MARTIN.

[Our columns and other means are open to the authorities of the London Hospital if they can traverse one single statement which we have made. The article to which our correspondent alludes is an advertisement, and we are not therefore responsible for its assertions.—Ed.]

### HOME HOSPITALS.

*To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."*

SIR,—The remedy for "Home Hospital's" difficulty is quite simple—she must charge a fair rate to her patients for value received; if she cannot make the business pay at the rate of payment forthcoming, the wisest thing she can do is to close the "Home." The work of a superin-

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