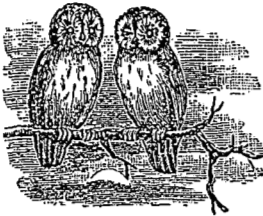


Matrons in Council.

WHAT IS A TRAINED NURSE?

QUESTION 5.—How should a Nurse's knowledge be tested? If by examination, by whom?

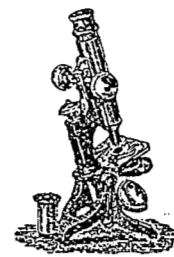


MADAM,—I have lately returned to England after eight years in the Australian Colonies, and am immensely struck with the marvellous changes which are apparent to me in all things Nursing. When I left England, after some years of Hospital work, I left Nursing, from a professional point of view, "flat, stale, and unprofitable." I remember no Nursing paper—little or no interest in Nursing matters in the lay or medical Press. The Nurse was (as Miss Mollett aptly puts it) in a complete state of serfdom. *The B.N.A. did not exist.* Strange as it may seem, the whole argument is answered in those few significant words: Eight very short years. And what do I find upon my return? Autonomy for Nurses an established fact; Nurses of all classes and grades bound together in a strong vigorous Association, granted the prefix Royal; a flourishing Nursing Press; hundreds of Nurses gaining a full and just remuneration for their labour; "Nurse sweater" a stigma of veritable contempt; a tentative system of registration an accomplished fact; preliminary education and examination in actual force. All this seems quite marvellous to me, and wonderfully invigorating. That there is still no uniform standard of Nursing education and examination is not to be wondered at. England is a very conservative country, and it will take a few years yet to arrive at that very desirable climax; but it appears to me that it is just the subject for a Matrons' Council to thrash out, not only of what such education should consist, but how it is to be accomplished. I can but agree heartily with the views so well expressed by "A Hospital Sister" in last week's issue, that we must have uniformity of education and certification after a uniform and public examination. And what body more fitted to conduct such examinations than a Board selected from the leading members of our own Association?—Yours, etc.,

"A COLONIAL MATRON."

Medical Matters.

COLD BATHS.



Twenty five years ago it was recommended that in cases of high fever cold baths should be employed. And cases were recorded in which life was undoubtedly saved by a measure which was regarded, then, as somewhat heroic. Since then, the benefits of the treatment have been widely acknowledged, and the treatment has been carried out, not only by cold baths, as originally proposed, but also by the cold pack. An excellent result of this treatment is given in a case, recently published, in which a woman, forty-eight years of age, suffering from acute rheumatism, suddenly developed a temperature of 108 degs., becoming unconscious, laughing and shouting incoherently, the face cyanosed, the pupils contracted, the pulse 152 and very small. She was evidently dying, and, as a last resource, was placed in a bath at a temperature of 100 degs., and this was rapidly cooled down to 66 degs., brandy being administered freely. In fifteen minutes the temperature dropped six degrees, and she was then taken out of the bath and removed to bed. Five minutes later, the temperature had fallen five degrees more, she was shivering and quite sensible, and the pulse was 120. After a quarter of an hour, the temperature rapidly rose until it reached 102 degs. She was kept constantly sponged with ice-water, and ice was applied to the head, which apparently kept the temperature down. She was then given Salicylate every two hours, and the temperature became and remained normal. The practical point to remember is, that this treatment is somewhat severe, and that, as a general rule, patients require brandy in considerable quantities to maintain the heart's action under the combined depressing forces of hyperpyrexia internally, and extreme cold to the surface of the skin.

TUBERCULIN.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* states that a new purpose has been found for the tuberculin of Professor Koch, which has been more successful than it proved to be in the cure of human phthisis. It has been discovered that by inoculating cattle with the preparation, they have apparently been protected against tubercular diseases. Should this news prove to be well founded, the next consequence probably will be that lymph from such inoculated animals will be employed in the treat-

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