"It certainly compares very favourably to Turkish humanity when one sees the wounded who fought under the Crescent being tended by the gentle hands of Christian women of the Red Cross, and one simultaneously hears that there is not one Greek prisoner in any Turkish hospital, and that the Sultan refused the services of the Red Cross Society, thereby depriving any Christian prisoner, who might be spared, the consolation of being nursed by women of his own creed and country, and also in refusing to respect that Society should it happen to be found in any town by the conquering army. Those at Arta on April 18th last had certainly an illustration of this. To my positive knowledge the guns of Imaret pursued the Red Cross flag to three different positions, when the occupants of the hospital were endeavouring to work under the security of international respect, and immunity from danger, assured to such a sacred cause as the protection of the wounded and dying."

Answers to Prize Questions.

WE have pleasure in announcing that the prize of \pounds I IS., for the best answers to the Prize Questions in the NURSING RECORD for the past three months, has been awarded to Miss Kate S. Clark, M.R.B.N.A., whose answers to the questions for the present month we publish below. The answers sent in by Miss L. Menzies Jackson, M.R.B.N.A., and Miss A. M. Harris, M.R.B.N.A., are also highly commended.

I.—What would be the advantages of State registration to nurses?

(1) It is only through registration and recognition by the State that nursing can take a real step forward, and the primary result would be to form it into a distinct profession. Then undoubtedly, the first advantage that would accrue would be the establishment of a definite system and standard of training, with a mini-mum requirement, and uniform throughout, to ensure the full qualification of a woman to the practice of nursing. This would at one stroke sweep away many of the abuses which nursing labours under at present, for with uniformity of education there would be increased efficiency and better discipline, which would inevitably raise its members in the public estimation, and call out a further improvement in the *personnel* of the profession.

(2) With registration nurses would be protected against inadequately trained women who assume nursing garb and then, "a little

knowledge being a dangerous thing," have it in their power to bring discredit on bond fide members. The nurse a la mode, of whom we have heard so much of late, would then be effectually banished and the ranks cleared of those who have taken up nursing as a fad, and not from any love of the work or fitness for it.

(3) With better education and organisation nurses would be able to unite and co-operate with greater chance of success for the advancement of our calling, and also for individual benefit; and with registration their privileges and their legal status would be greatly raised, bringing in their train again increased responsibilities to develop a keener interest in their profession. In fact, the benefits that would come with State registration are almost incalculable, and nurses, who have any real love for their work, will do all they can to bring it about.

II.—What is the usual diet for a patient for the first week after abdominal section?

For the first thirty-six hours after operation, absolutely nothing must be taken by mouth by the patient, though she may be allowed to have it rinsed out with tepid water to allay the thirst which adds so much to the discomfort, and often misery, which follows on an abdominal operation. Ice ought not to be given unless there is sickness, as it only relieves the thirst for the time, and eventually goes to augment it. Some surgeons advise nutrient enemata for the first two days, whether there is prostration or not, and in that case probably Valentin's meat juice zi. and Brandy zss. would be given twice in twenty-four hours. Champagne and ice may be ordered if there is sickness, but the rule is, that if possible, absolute starvation must be adhered to, for thirty-six hours at least. At the end of the second day, if the pulse and temperature are good, and there are no unfavourable symptoms, a cup of weak tea may be allowed, to be followed later on with milk and lime water, or potash, half a cupful at a time to begin with, and increasing it gradually and regularly if there be no sign of sickness. On the fourth day, bread and butter with the tea, and a small piece of fish for dinner would be given. Next day, a light milk pudding would be added for supper, and this diet would be followed for quite a week afterwards

> KATE S. CLARK, M.R.B.N.A., 2, Bellevue Terrace, Edinburgh, N.B.

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