

commend the RECORD questions, therefore, to those Nurses who are still *in statu pupillari*.

I.

“What means must Nurses adopt to help forward the cause of State Registration?”

It would seem that if registration is to become law within measurable distance, it must be brought about through the recognized organization of the Nursing profession, viz., the Royal British Nurses' Association. Unfortunately, the Association has fallen upon evil days, and has been following a retrograde policy of late, instead of a progressive one, for the present Executive Committee has definitely declared itself against State Registration, although that was actually one of the principles which this Association was founded to promote. There are other causes for dissatisfaction, with the present management, which quite justify Nurses in using such means as lie in their power to change this condition, and have it replaced by a management which will be truly representative of the Nursing world, and which will have their best interests at heart. It would appear then that Nurses must work for an inquiry into the state of the Association, so that it may be put on a proper basis, for until we can give the public a guarantee that we are a body of women to be respected, and reckoned with, we shall get no satisfaction. It would be a good thing to form a committee of public men and women, who have influence to interest the outside world, in this question of advance in our profession, for with the public it largely lies to demand justice and protection. Individually, Nurses should bring their enthusiasm to bear on the question, and work for the same end.

II.

“How would you prepare a bed for a case of amputation of the thigh immediately after operation?”

An ordinary spring mattress is used, covered first with a long mackintosh; next, a sheet—well tucked in, top and bottom, and both sides; then a small mackintosh, with a draw sheet over that, is stretched across the middle and securely fixed under the mattress at either side, and two small pillows are placed for the head. The bed must be warmed, with one or two hot-water bottles, and a light blanket put on next the patient; then the upper sheet, one or two blankets as may be required, and a light counterpane. The stump is slightly raised on a pillow protected with jaconet, and a cradle must be used to keep off the pressure of the bedclothes, which must also be partially turned back from the stump to allow the Nurse to watch for hæmorrhage. If there is sudden starting in the stump it must be confined to the pillow by a bandage placed round and across the bed.

Legal Matters.

WE drew attention last week to the case of Alice Gough, a nurse at the Shoreditch Infirmary, who was charged with, and admitted, having stolen a blanket, the property of the Guardians, and in whose purse a considerable number of pawn tickets for other articles belonging to the Guardians and to one of her fellow-nurses were found. Alice Gough was charged on remand at Worship Street, when it was deposed that the police officer found in her box bottles which had contained morphia and cocaine. Mr. Margetts, who prosecuted, said that it seemed possible that the prisoner had taken the things to supply herself with money to get the drugs. The Guardians had no wish to press the matter, as the prisoner had a high character. We have made inquiries at the Shoreditch Infirmary, and were informed that the nurse was engaged at a time when there was a great press of work, and it was impossible to obtain anyone else.

The prisoner said that she had been obliged to take the drugs to keep up to her work, as she could not sleep in the day, and was on duty at night. Mr. Corser bound over the prisoner in her own recognizances to come up for judgment when called for, and considered it best that she should be sent into a home where she could recover her health, as the use of drugs seemed to have destroyed her sense of responsibility. While fully believing that this is the treatment most likely to be beneficial to the nurse, we are of opinion that the public are justified in demanding some protection from a drug drinker and a thief. Whatever may have been the cause of Alice Gough's appropriating the property of the Guardians and her fellow-nurses, the fact remains that she does not know the difference between *meum* and *tuum*. It is, therefore, absolutely reprehensible that, at the end of her period of detention, she should be let loose upon an unsuspecting public, to obtain, on the strength of former certificates, employment as a trained nurse, and recognition as a member of an honourable profession, which she has disgraced.

At the Rhyl County Court, Mrs. Elizabeth Jane Brookes, Victoria Avenue, Prestatyn, before his Honour, Sir Horatio Lloyd, sued Miss Sarah Emma Parry, 9, Alexander Terrace, Chester, executrix of the will of Mrs. Jane Jones, for £22 11s. 6d., for attendance, nursing, washing, rent, coal, etc., due from the deceased woman. The defendant had settled the case, except for the nursing and attendance, in respect of which £2 was paid into court, leaving the claim at £17. The defendant refused to pay more than £2 for the nursing services of the plaintiff. She did not consider that the plaintiff had been required to nurse Mrs. Jones, who swore shortly before her death that she would have been

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)