

ON Wednesday, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick addressed a large meeting of the Hornsey Women's Liberal Association on "The Present Crisis in the Nursing Profession," which we will report next week.

Prize Questions.

WE have this month received answers to the Prize Questions exclusively from nurses who have not completed their three years' training, but while the answers have come in from those whom the questions are specially designed to help, for this very reason, perhaps, none of them reach a standard of excellence to justify our publishing them as of interest to the general reader. We hope that all those who have sent in answers this month will do so again, as it is only by constant practice that excellence can be obtained in writing examination papers.

We must remind competitors that answers should be written on one side of the paper only, preferably on foolscap. That a margin, at least an inch wide, should be ruled on the left hand side of the paper, in which the numbers of the questions and any sub-divisions of the answers should be placed. The answers should be broken up into paragraphs for the sake of clearness, fresh paragraphs beginning on new lines, and between each question several lines should be left. It adds very much to the clearness of the answer also if important points are written in a rather larger hand than the rest of the matter and a line ruled underneath.

We should advise our correspondents also to carefully read the questions before they attempt to answer them. For instance, one competitor has quite missed the point of the second question, and given the positions in which patients suffering from the various diseases should be *placed*. But our question was, "Describe the position in bed usually *adopted* by cases of enteric fever, peritonitis, heart disease, and meningitis." An experienced nurse on entering a ward will know to a great extent the different cases which she will have to nurse from observing this one point alone. For instance, the case of enteric fever will be lying quite flat, either on the side or back, with a tendency, if the attack be a severe one, to slip down in the bed. The case of peritonitis will be lying on his back with the knees retracted, so as to relieve the strain upon the abdominal muscles. The case of heart disease will be in a sitting posture, probably inclining towards the left side, or possibly leaning forward on a bed-table upon which a pillow has been placed. The case of meningitis will be lying on the side with the head very much retracted towards the heels; indeed, in severe cases in small children this is so much the case that the body almost assumes the form of the letter O. These details will, with experience, become familiar to every nurse.

A Question of Discipline.

WE understand that the Camberwell Board of Guardians at their last meeting intimated to the night superintendent and three of the nurses that it was expected that they would send in their resignations before the next Board meeting. As the charges brought against the nurses, and the irregularities which it is alleged have occurred are still *sub judice*, we must reserve our expression of opinion upon them. We simply state, therefore, that the charges made in the report of the Infirmary Visiting Committee are, that Miss Carey, the night superintendent, was (1) addicted to smoking cigarettes; (2) that she was in the habit of taking her supper in one of the ward kitchens with certain nurses whom she favoured, while with other nurses, who were not inclined to fall in with her ways, she was unduly harsh and severe; (3) that in addition to smoking, the nurses with whom she associated were on occasions found playing musical instruments late at night, to the detriment of the patients. Two other nurses would have been included in the above list but that their resignations have already been accepted.

We understand that there is considerable feeling on the part of the nurses that their resignations have been demanded without any opportunity being given to them to state their own side of the matter. It is stated also that one of the nurses whose resignation is required is at present ill at St. Thomas's Hospital, and that she, therefore, had no opportunity of knowing the charges brought against her, much less did she have any opportunity of disproving them. We are of opinion that whether the nurses eventually prove to be free from blame or no, it is due to them that the very fullest opportunity should be afforded them of stating their own side of the case before they send in their resignations, and, in our opinion, they will be acting most unwisely if they tender their resignations without demanding a hearing. Further, we desire to point out that, setting aside the alleged partiality of the night superintendent, the charges against the nurses are two; that they smoke cigarettes, and that on occasions they play musical instruments late at night. This latter charge, we understand, the nurses deny. It is a matter of opinion whether women should smoke or no, but if the practice is, for them, in the words of one of the guardians, a "moral irregularity," then we desire to point out that many, even of the highest in the land, are guilty of "moral irregularities." Whether the practice is not one in which the matron might with advantage exercise the disciplinary powers which are presumably in her hands, and, in the interests of the institution, and for the safety of the patients, prohibit it, is another question. On behalf of the nurses it is stated that they are inhabiting

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