

Notices.

In consequence of innumerable complaints, we would advise our readers in provincial towns to order their NURSING RECORD through Messrs. Smith & Son's Bookstall at the Railway Station. In case they have any difficulty in obtaining it in this manner each week, we shall be glad if they will write a post card to the Manager, at our Offices.

Copies of the NURSING RECORD are always on sale at 269, Regent Street, price 1d. As this address is close to Oxford Circus, it will be found a Central Depôt.

Comments and Replies.

Enquirer.—We should advise you to apply to Dr. Fletcher Little, 32, Harley Street, Cavendish Square, W., who, we believe, will be able to meet your need.

Nurse B.—The two tubes ordinarily used for tracheotomy cases, are what are known as "bivalves" and "Parker's." The bivalve is so named from the form of the outer tube which is divided into two portions, which may be pressed together, and the size of the tube is thus considerably diminished and so its introduction is facilitated. The disadvantages of this tube are (1) that its calibre is decreased when the inner tube is removed for cleansing purposes, and (2) that it is quarter circle in form and consequently does not correspond with the natural direction of the trachea, and the lower extremity of the tube may even cause ulceration of the anterior wall of the trachea. Parker's tube is angular in shape, and is therefore anatomically correct. It is rather more difficult to insert than the bivalve, but, on the other hand it does not collapse *in situ*. A Parker's tube is also fitted with a moveable collar and this minimises the danger occasioned by an ill-fitting tube.

Theatre Nurse.—Sponges which are a bad color may be bleached, and at the same time antiseptised by soaking them in a saturated solution of hypo-sulphate of soda. When thoroughly soaked they should be transferred to a dish containing muriatic acid and water in the proportion of one to thirty. The muriatic acid uniting with the soda sets free sulphurous acid, which is a powerful antiseptic as well as bleacher.

An ignorant Pro.—The reason why the glands are so often affected in disease is, that all lymphatic ducts sooner or later before they reach the big veins of the neck pass through one or more lymphatic glands. These ducts absorb fluid from the tissues, hence they may carry off poisonous matter. This poison is carried on to a lymphatic gland and there may be stopped.

Pupil Midwife.—The uses of the amniotic fluid are to preserve the foetus from external violence, to preserve the foetus from the direct pressure of abnormal uterine contraction during utero-gestation, to allow some degree of movement to the foetus, to preserve an equable temperature, and, during labour, to form an elastic wedge for the dilation of the os uteri.

An Anxious Mother.—Obtain the Nursing Directory from the offices of the Nursing Record, 11, Adam Street, Strand, price, 5s. This will give you full information concerning the principal training schools, as well as much else of value.

Country Reader.—The last meeting of the International Council of Women was held at Chicago in 1893. We are very glad to hear that you intend to be present at the Congress to be held in London in June. It will be a unique occasion, and one full of possibilities for good to women of all nations, classes, and creeds.

Certificated Nurse.—You would do well to supplement your general training by gaining a knowledge of some special branches before taking up private nursing. A year's experience in a fever hospital would be of great subsequent use to you, and it would be well to obtain the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society.

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