

another letter saying the Council could not listen to any request of the kind from midwives. Yet, if a doctor reports a midwife to the Council, she is at once suspended without any enquiry, for three, six, or nine months. What is wanted is representation on the Council. Again, on nursing questions. A clause in the Act provides that the Council's certificate may be given to any foreign nurse who has been trained for three years by any training school which the Council may consider competent to train, and who holds the certificate of that body. But this "competence," in the eyes of the Council, appears to me to be absolutely capricious. Now, an Edinburgh Royal Infirmary nurse is refused her license and registration, now a Leicester nurse, a Birmingham General Hospital nurse, a Ryde Infirmary nurse, while, again, nurses from obscure and petty training schools are passed. A nurse on the Council could lay the different training in different Schools before the Council and advise them on the subject.

Again, nurses have petitioned Parliament, and written privately to the Council, asking that three years' training may be the standard—even Royalty has addressed the Council on the subject on behalf of South African nurses—but, for a year, one year's training was all they required; then, for seven years, only two. The wishes of nurses and Matrons were wholly disregarded, but a few months ago a doctor in the Council brought the subject forward. It was passed at once, approved by the Governor, and forthwith became law. A representative nurse on the Council could have done it from the first. No doubt the tendency of the Council is to make *all* nurses pass the Cape examinations, whatever their previous history has been; as an M.A. of Oxford has to pass certain Cape examinations before he can enter the Civil Service, and it would cause less friction to say so fairly than to reject nurse after nurse who has held good positions in England on some trivial point or other.

The great aim of nurses should be that no private nursing institution should be allowed to send out an unregistered nurse, and no hospital receiving a Government grant should be allowed to employ any woman as Matron or Sister who is unregistered. But this cannot be while registration is made so difficult and worrying to nurses, and until we are represented by a nurse-midwife on the Council.

LITTLE STREET ARAB, who has had various operations for necrosis, sees the doctors standing round him, and makes a protest: "Yer can't hoperate on me, Dr. K—, ther ain't been no fomentation held on my case"!!

Review.

HOUSEWIFERY.

A MOST welcome little book is that on "Housewifery," by Miss E. M. Homersham, Associate of the Sanitary Institute, and authoress of "Home Nursing," published by Allman and Son, Limited, 67, New Oxford Street, W.C. The art of housewifery is too often neglected, but it is nevertheless a very indispensable one, and to a nurse a knowledge of it represents a very definite cash value, the lack of which often stands between her and a much desired matronship. The cover of this little book bears the motto *experientia docet*, and it is because Miss Homersham speaks from practical experience of the subject of which she treats that her advice is so valuable. As one of the staff teachers and lecturers of the Glasgow Training School of Cookery and Domestic Economy she has had much opportunity of putting theory into practice and proving the method which she recommends. We may here mention that the course of training provided by this School, which has its head quarters at 80, Bath Street, Glasgow, is most complete.

The first chapter treats of the house, and we find in it some excellent hints as to the choice of a house, its sanitation, the lease or agreement when taking a house, besides advice as to decoration. Next follows a chapter on the all-important question of house-furnishing, which contains much useful advice. Then the house servants are dealt with, and a time table of work given for a general servant, and suggestions as to her times off duty, also a list of the articles required for the use of the kitchen servant and of the house servant, and of the wages usually paid to experienced servants. Next comes a treatise on house work, with directions as to the daily work and special cleaning, together with recipes for various furniture polishes, and directions as to the best methods of cleaning morocco and other leathers, tapestry, and repp, paint, and painted furniture. Some hints are given as to table-laying, and waiting at table. Then we have a chapter of considerable length devoted to the important subject of kitchen management. We are all aware how much the comfort of the entire household depends upon the efficient management of this department, how the lack of management or bad management here pervades the house, and is responsible for much shortness of temper. Space is well devoted to instructions as to how to clean a kitchen, and if these are thoroughly carried out there will be fewer complaints that the "grate won't draw," or that the "chimney smokes," or the "oven won't get hot." The next things considered are the household stores, the larder and its position, how to recognise good meat, fish, and poultry. Then we have a chapter on methods of cleaning various things, from silver, brass, and copper, to soiled carpets and boots. Next, the way of managing a small laundry at home is detailed, and, lastly, the vexed question of accounts, and how to keep them, is dealt with. A form is clearly arranged on which the various details of weekly expenditure may be tabulated showing at the end of each week the amount spent, both on the different items, and the total expenditure, and at the end of each quarter it is easy to see the total spent on each item, and so to discover and check any undue expenditure. We should advise all our readers to obtain this most useful little work.

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