

Notices.

WE have received a reply to Miss Mary Gardner's letter on "The Open Question," from Dr. Wigglesworth, but we regret its length does not permit of its insertion this week. We hope to print it in our next issue.

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 Depot.

Comments and Replies.

Nurse F. E. B., Bangor.—We know nothing to the detriment of the Home you mention. We think a great deal depends upon the residents. If several nurses determine that "shop" shall be tabooed they generally carry their point. A good plan is to speak to the Superintendent of the Home, and ask her to frame some regulation stating that it is not permitted, and to have it posted on the notice board.

Staff Nurse.—A post of ward sister in a good hospital is always desirable to obtain. It is a stepping-stone to higher things, and the experience is invaluable. No one can hope in these days to obtain a good matronship who has not held for a time an appointment as ward sister; and frequently it is also required that she should for a time have acted as home sister or assistant matron. This, indeed, is most necessary, as, in the course of her professional training, a nurse gets little or no experience in domestic management, and this enters so largely into the duty of the matron of a

hospital, and its economic administration, as well as the comfort of the staff, depend so much upon her efficiency in this respect that hospital committees naturally wish to obtain as matrons candidates who know their work, not those who have to learn it at the expense of the hospital.

Mrs. Thompson.—You have no means of ascertaining from any public Register whether a nurse has had the training she professes to have had or not, as no compulsory Register is in existence. Fully qualified nurses, mindful of their responsibility to the public, as well as to their own profession, have asked for years for the issue of such a Register, but vested interests have so far stood in the way. The time will come, however, and we are fast approaching it, when, if nurses do not take the bull by the horn and organize their own profession, the public will insist upon doing it for them, for the old-fashioned confidence in nurses is giving way to a feeling of mistrust, caused by the injury done to their profession by ignorant and half-trained women.

A One Year Certificated Nurse.—Army nurses need quite as much experience as their civilian colleagues, besides the special qualifications which will occur to every one as essential in a handful of women living in the midst of an army of men. Neither must it be forgotten that besides sound professional knowledge and fitness as to character, executive ability and power of initiation are required. Army nursing does not present the same even routine as nursing in a well ordered hospital at home, and even a well trained staff nurse may find herself in difficulties when confronted with the problems of administering a large ward. To nurse efficiently under orders is one thing. To assume the helm, and direct the work of a ward so as to ensure its smooth working in all departments is quite a different matter. You cannot fail to understand therefore that the amateur nurse is entirely out of place in an Army Hospital, and social influence can never take the place of professional knowledge.

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[next page](#)