

Notices.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page VIII.

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.

Country Matron.—The annual conference of the Matrons' Council will not take place in July this year, as it was agreed at the meeting in April that it would be better to defer the annual gathering of the Council until after the return of the delegates from the International Congress at Buffalo, and then to convene a meeting at which they shall be invited to give an account of their experiences.

Miss James, Hereford.—Cases for binding the NURSING RECORD may be obtained from the manager, 11, Adam Street, Strand, price 2s. Indexes may also be had at 6d. each.

Certificated Nurse.—We do not recommend you to start work as an independent midwifery nurse. In the first place, you will only be able to make a very small income, and, secondly, you must remember that you have no locus standi, that there is nothing to differentiate you as a fully trained midwifery nurse, from women with a few weeks, or with no training, that if any infantile or maternal death occurs, without your having been able to obtain medical assistance, you must face an inquest, and this even in cases

where the infant has only lived for a few moments, due to your skill in promptly performing artificial respiration, whereas an ignorant midwife would make no such effort to save the child's life, and her certificate that the infant was still-born would be held sufficient. In our opinion the only satisfactory way to do midwifery work is in connection with a maternity hospital of repute, even then the responsibility is great and the work most trying. We consider that for district midwifery the work should be organized with a separate staff for night and day duty, as is held essential in other branches of nursing, but we know of no lying-in hospital where this is done. It is the broken rest, the sudden change from a warm bed out into a bitterly cold night, into a hot cottage, and back again through cold and rain when the case is over, that breaks down so many nurses who undertake this work. We should like to see maternity nursing amongst the poor undertaken by the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, and the services of a competent nurse available for every poor woman in her hour of need.

Subscriber, Leeds.—We are always glad to consider manuscripts, with a view to publication.

Provincial Nurse.—There is at present no association of certificated nurses organized in this country in connection with their training school, except the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses. The advantages and pleasures of such a League are, however, so evident that no doubt other training schools will follow suit. Why should you not interest yourself in the matter in connection with your own training school?

A Puzzled Observer.—The matter in a nutshell is that every profession must be governed by its own members, and make its own laws. Those who do not wish nursing to rank as a skilled profession, but only as a domestic vocation, endeavour by every means in their power to prevent nurses from co-operating for professional purposes. Hence the friction.

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