

Notices.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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 the NURSING RECORD Office 11, Adam Street, Strand, W.C.

Comments and Replies.

Certificated Nurse.—There is no doubt that a nurse who only holds a certificate of proficiency in medical and surgical nursing is poorly equipped for private nursing. Experience in infectious nursing is very desirable, and also a certificate of maternity training. Nurses who wish to undertake mental work should, in addition to their certificate of general training, hold that of the Medico-Psychological Society, while for the nursing of eye and ear cases, previous experience in the special departments of general hospitals, or in hospitals entirely devoted to their treatment, is necessary. The present-day nurse must be a many-sided person, though, like the medical practitioner, her tendency is undoubtedly to specialisation at the completion of her general training, which must, of course, form the basis of all efficient work, as it is impossible to nurse one part of the body to the exclusion of the others.

A Country Reader.—We can thoroughly recommend Thomson's Graciosa Corset, and it is especially suitable for nurses owing to the hinge arrangement at the waist so that the steels cannot be broken by stooping. It is very satisfactory and durable, and remarkably moderate in price at 8s. 11d.

L. O. S. Diploma.—The Diploma of the London Obstetrical Society, an imposing document issued by it until 1895, states, as you are aware, that the holder is a skilled midwife competent to attend natural labour. The certificate issued since that date, a very modest affair, states nothing of the kind, but merely that the holder "has passed to our satisfaction the Examination in Midwifery instituted by the Obstetrical Society of London." This may mean anything or nothing, but it certainly places the responsibility of attending midwifery cases upon the holder of the certificate, and as the Society has deliberately withdrawn its former guarantee that the persons who have successfully passed its examination are skilled midwives, competent to attend natural labour, presumably it does not so regard them. In our opinion persons who practice midwifery under the certificate at present given by the Obstetrical Society do so under undefined and dangerous conditions. It is difficult to understand what adequate return women at present receive for the £1 1s. which they pay for examination by the London Obstetrical Society.

Miss James.—You will have a much better chance of obtaining a Matron's post if you can show that you have had experience in institutional housekeeping. You may have excellent nursing qualifications, but though these are, of course, absolutely essential, a knowledge of domestic economy is also requisite in a Matron. It is not right that she should obtain this knowledge at the expense of an institution after she is appointed to the Matronship, and most Committees take this view of the matter.

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STANLEY SMITH, Secretary.

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