

that hospitals from San Francisco to Chicago have improved their course of training to conform to the New York requirements for registration, as, according to the law, the nurses cannot register unless the schools in which they trained are up to the standard set by the Regents. In a few years' time this law must have the effect of bringing all the nurses' schools into line and up to a proper standard. It is to be hoped hospitals in this country will be compelled to do likewise.

Yours truly,

A CERTIFICATED NURSE WITH NO
KNOWLEDGE OF GYNÆCOLOGICAL,
OBSTETRIC OR FEVER NURSING.

A MINIMUM STANDARD.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—As opinion as to the benefit of the establishment of a minimum standard of nursing education is apparently not universal, I hope you will allow me space to say that with my whole heart I long for its enforcement. The Matrons of large training-schools may not feel the pinch, but we Matrons of special hospitals, when we have to obtain extra help, find out the deficiency of the knowledge of many nurses. I have really given up sending to our local institution—a large and important one—for a member of their staff, as I find that the majority of nurses supplied are quite useless to me. You would be astonished at the number holding certificates from leading training-schools who cannot even pass a female catheter, much less are they of any use as special nurses on cases of abdominal section. Surely when one obtains a nurse with a three years' certificate from a good hospital she should be competent to perform these duties, but at present an ordinary certificate conveys no such guarantee, and it is, therefore, with the greatest satisfaction I have learnt that the British Gynæcological Society examines and certifies nurses in this branch of work. Considering its great importance, some guarantee of a nurse's knowledge in this particular is essential before critical cases are entrusted to her care. I hope nurses will increasingly realise the value of this certificate to themselves and to the public.—I am, Dear Madam, Yours faithfully,

SPECIAL HOSPITAL MATRON.

FLOGGING IN THE NAVY.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

MADAM,—Is it not remarkable that the Navy League should continue to withhold its support from the movement for the abolition of the cane and birch in the Royal Navy as summary punishments in the case of boys and young men convicted of comparatively trivial offences against discipline?

In view of the fact that the British Army is now better disciplined *without* the lash than ever before, and that flogging is not permitted in the navies of other Great Powers, it seems extraordinary that the Navy League should remain silent about these disgusting naval-punishments.

Lord Nelson detested flogging, and it would be a sincerer compliment to his memory to secure the abolition of this barbarous and indecent practice than to decorate his statue in Trafalgar Square.

Yours truly,

Weardale.

J. C.

Comments and Replies.

Miss Edmonds.—You are too young at present to enter most general hospitals as a probationer. The usual age is twenty-three, but we should advise you to make application at least a year before you desire to begin work, as all the best training-schools have long lists of candidates waiting their turn.

Provincial Matron.—The book you mean is Miss Dock's "Materia Medica for Nurses." It is published by Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 24, Bedford Street, Strand. It is, we know, used and much appreciated by several Matrons of training-schools in this country.

Maternity Nurse.—A baby should be taught good habits from the first. If it is "held out" every four hours when it is changed, before fresh linen is put on, the suggestion is almost sure to have the desired effect. Before it is a year old regular habits should be well established, if the nurse is quick to interpret its expression of need.

Two Sisters.—A very pleasant holiday can be spent in Belgium at a small expense. The country is full of historical associations and picturesque corners. The architecture of its cathedrals and churches is very fine, and there are many beautiful pictures to be seen. The "Memlings" in the Hospital of St. John at Bruges are alone worth a visit. We shall be pleased to give you any further information. You should, of course, possess yourself of a Baedeker of the Netherlands. The book is quite an indispensable companion on a visit to a foreign country.

S. E. D.—We should advise you to register your midwifery qualification now, as after March 31st, 1905, you will not be able to do so without passing another examination. Apply to the Secretary, Central Midwives' Board, 6, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Annual Report, 1903-04, is now ready. All those interested in the efficient organisation of nursing should procure it from the Hon. Secretary, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W. Six copies, post free, 7d., or one copy 1½d. Gives brief review of the history of State Registration of Nurses.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Those of our readers who wish for extra copies of last week's issue, containing the report of the International Congress of Women at Berlin, and also of this and next week's issues, containing official reports of the meeting of the International Council of Nurses, should order them at once from the Manager, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 11, Adam Street, Strand, W.C., or through their newsagents, as the supply is limited.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Editor will at all times be pleased to consider articles of a suitable nature for insertion in this journal—those on practical nursing are specially invited. The Editor will also be pleased to receive paragraphs, such as items of nursing news, results of nurses' examinations, new appointments, reports of hospital functions, also letters on questions of interest to nurses, and newspapers marked with reports of matters of professional interest.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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