

Inasmuch as the last and more energetic contractions of the bladder are apt to induce considerable hæmorrhage from the diseased tissue, the prostatic urethra, and the head of the bladder generally, it follows that more or less pure blood may be passed at the end of micturition. On this account the last drops passed should be collected in the third glass.

The next point to observe is the colour of the blood. When this is bright red it is clear that the oxygen contained in it has not been yielded up; it most probably originates in the passages, from the bladder or the prostatic urethra. Dark red blood containing urihæmoglobin may take its rise in the kidneys, but also in the bladder when it has been retained therein for some time.

When clots of blood are passed the form of them may vary. Worm-like, long and thin clots often originate in the urethra; clots of blood of roundish form in the bladder; and long, thin clots may take their rise in the ureters.

The reaction of the urine to test paper must also be tested. When the reaction is acid the lesion is probably seated in the kidney substance or pelvis, whereas when it is alkaline the mischief is more likely to be in the bladder.

But the most satisfactory of all methods of examination in cases of hæmaturia is that by cystoscopy.—Dr. H. W. SYERS, in *Medical Times*.

### Nurses' Home of Rest at Brighton

Our suggestion for a Linen Committee for Sir Julian Goldsmid's Home of Rest for Nurses, 12, Sussex Square, Brighton, is getting under way. Our idea was that any money collected by this small Committee should be expended by it in providing "pretties" which are necessary for the beauty and comfort of a "real" home, but which are sometimes considered an extravagance by those who have to administer a strictly limited amount of subscriptions for the general upkeep.

When it is realised that nearly thirty windows, some of them very large, have to be "curtained," that cushions, &c., add greatly to the comfort of tired workers, and that in use these things soon get soiled, it will be seen that a considerable annual outlay is necessary to keep up the stock. We therefore acknowledge with gratitude six pairs of lace curtains to be given by two visitors, and 5s. from Miss Conway, an old friend of the Home. No one has yet offered to act as hon. secretary to this Committee. Please somebody do so before next week.

The Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses for England will meet on November 25th in London, to discuss the question of international affiliation, which will be brought forward in an official letter from the Hon. Secretary, Miss L. L. Dock.

### Thoughts on the Final Training of District Probationers.

By MISS M. LOANE,

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For a period of time which in retrospect seems of immeasurable duration, I was obsessed by a personage called the "average district nurse." Ghosts, "for aught that ever I could read, could ever learn by tale or history," are pre-eminently gifted with the grace of monotony; they continually adjure one to do, or forbear doing, some single act which would doubtless be simple enough if they utilised their ample leisure in cultivating more rational methods of expression. But the "average district nurse" was no ordinary, tolerable, one-ideaed ghost; it was not merely "questionable"—it questioned. I was called on to give my opinion as to how it should be clothed, on duty and off, what elementary instruction it ought to have received, how it should be fed and housed, paid, trained, occupied and pensioned. The worst part of the obsession was, that I never found three answers two of which were not at variance with the other, and sometimes the whole trio were self-destructive.

But one happy day the burden fell from me; I recognised that the "average district nurse" was a mere abstraction, that she had no more real existence than "Every Woman" or "the Economic Man," and that there was not the smallest fear—or hope—that I should ever have to teach her, cater for her, order her uniform, persuade her to join the pension fund, or overcome her partiality for high-heeled boots and her repugnance to the business use of umbrella and gloves. I joyfully perceived that every probationer is an exception, and must be treated as an exception if the best possible use is to be made of the available material. It is just barely permissible to arrange them in classes, but one must never lose sight of the fact that this is a purely mental and arbitrary arrangement, solely for convenience of thought.

Neither for technical, moral, social, nor intellectual training must the district probationers be regarded except as individuals. Theoretically, they resemble one another closely in their experience and professional knowledge, the minimum of preparation being two years' work "in an approved hospital." But even if two persons have apparently received the same advantages and shared the same experience, even if they are born of the same parents, brought up in the same home, have they, at any age you like to mention, acquired the same or even roughly equivalent knowledge? Has not one of the sisters—her own mother could scarcely say why—learnt inexpressibly less of the practical duties of life than the other? The origin of the difference, the first parting of the ways, may have been self-distrust, later develop-

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