

Miss G. Morden, Woburn Square, W.C.
 Miss G. Ross, Queen Street, Edinburgh.
 Miss T. Lawson, Cowgate, Dundee.
 Miss G. Gower, Tavistock Road, Westbourne Park.
 Miss F. Green, Chaucer Road, Cambridge.
 Miss E. Major, Spalding, Lincs.
 Miss A. McNair, Bellevue Terrace, Edinburgh.
 Mrs. R. S. Hayward, The Grange, Wimbledon.
 Mrs. Sheard, Norfolk House, Chislehurst.
 Mrs. M. Shoemith, Bow Lane, Durham.
 Nurse Eliza, N. Ormesby Hosp., Middlesbro'.
 Mr. John Davis, Dispensary, Bagthorpe Infirmary.

The following competitors have guessed three out of four puzzles correctly:—

Mrs. R. Leigh, Lymstone; Miss L. Richardson, Infirmary, Clayton, Bradford; Miss F. Sheppard, Kent Nursing Institution, Tunbridge Wells; Miss M. Harris, Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds; Miss C. Thorpe, Marine Parade, Brighton; Miss T. G. Lumley, Falmouth; Miss D. Morris, Welbeck St., W.; Miss C. A. Murray, Stirling.

Several competitors failed to endorse envelope "Prize Puzzle."

The new set of puzzles will be found on p. viii. The Rules remain the same.

International Nursing News.

The American Nurses' National Association holds its Annual Meeting at Washington in May, when one day is to be put aside for the business of the Federation, which is composed of the officers of both the Superintendents' and the Nurses' Societies. International affiliation will be considered on a letter from Miss L. L. Dock, Hon. Secretary, and it is reported that the officers of both societies are enthusiastic over international affiliation. Once British, American, and German nurses come together, a solid foundation will be laid upon which to build up an International Council of Nurses worthy to till the splendid field of work which now lies fallow, and rich in possibilities.

The Report of the First Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council of Nurses, held at Berlin in 1904, is now issued. It contains a full account of the proceedings; and the papers, both those read at the meeting and those handed in to the Council, are given in full. It will be welcomed by those who were present as an interesting memento of a memorable occasion, and by all who desire to acquaint themselves with the position and progress of nursing organisation in other countries. The Report is full of interesting information compiled for the Council by leaders of nursing progress in the four quarters of the globe.

The Leagues and Societies affiliated to the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland will receive a copy of this Report through their Secretaries.

It may be obtained on application to the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Price in Great Britain, 1s. post free.

Invalids' Rights.

By MISS M. LOANE,

Superintendent of District Nurses' Home, Portsmouth.

Why is there such a strong tinge of condescension in our attitude towards sick people? We speak constantly of our "duty" to them, but always with a latent sense that it is very kind of us to do it. Why do we all, amateurs and professionals alike, incline to treat invalids as if they had somehow lost caste?

Let us, for once, speak of our patients' *rights*. If we could only get into the habit of acknowledging them, nurses as a body would be more popular than they can claim to be at present. The first right of an invalid is to the same degree of courtesy and respect that would be granted him if he were in perfect health. An inspector of hospitals, recently dead, once told me of his early experiences when he took charge of an asylum for insane officers. He said: "Nearly every day there were violent scimmages between attendants and patients, but it soon struck me that, although madness might account for the extreme fury of the patients, no sane man, unless he were a broken-spirited convict under the old *régime*, would have endured the attendants' manners without flying into an awful rage; so I got the men together half-a-dozen at a time, and said: 'Look here, you mean well enough, but you are on the wrong tack altogether. For the future I expect you to remember, day and night, that the patients are commissioned officers and that you are bluejackets and marines; I insist upon your treating every patient with the same respect as if he were on the quarter-deck and you were standing at attention to receive his orders. If you cannot adapt yourselves to this, I shall engage drapers' assistants, clerks out of employment, anyone who knows how to be civil or can learn.' Well, some of them grasped the state of affairs, but heaps of them couldn't. The first year I had to sack eighteen, and I replaced them with simple, good-tempered young fellows, straight from the plough. Of course they knew nothing of sick men, but they all 'knew how to behave when they seed Squire a-coming.' So I told them, 'these gentlemen are all squires, every one of them, but they are ill, and it makes their temper short. Behave as the bailiff does when he know Squire has a touch of gout, and all will go well.' I never had any more trouble."

I do not think nurses are in danger of resembling old-time convict guards, but they too often act as if illness swept away all distinctions of age, sex, and rank. They behave to a judge with a patronising kindness that would rather excessively mark the difference between themselves and a navy; and they treat a woman accustomed to respectful homage as if she were a three years' child. An acquaintance of mine, a handsome, dignified woman of about

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)