

found necessary for the comparatively small affairs of a League, how much more so for a society with the wide-spreading powers which this Society proposes to undertake?

Another point I notice is that provision is made for the payment of, not only the officers and servants of the Society, but also 5 per cent. interest on any money lent by a member. This is not a bad percentage in these days, especially when many nurses have to be content with 2½ per cent. on their little savings in the Post Office. But should the Society be wound up *every member* is responsible for all debts and liabilities contracted by the Society, *even for one year after that member may have ceased to belong to the Society*. On the other hand, if the Society is wound up and there is money in hand, this money is to be handed over to some similar institution, and *not divided* among the members to whom it rightfully belongs.

In short, it seems to me that whoever else may benefit under this scheme, the nurses will benefit neither in status, training, nor education, but will rather risk incurring obligations for which they are not responsible, as they will have no real voice in the management of the Society's affairs. Voluntary registration has been tried and signally failed; no voluntary society can cleanse the profession from the impostor, the semi-trained, and criminal *unless they pretend to be members of that Society*. The only method by which we can rid ourselves of these undesirables and put our profession on a firm basis is by State Registration, and State Registration alone.

So, nurses be wise and avoid voluntary registration societies. There are many other points each very important to nurses, but as I fear I have already made my letter too long, I must forbear to mention.

Believe me, yours faithfully,

The City Hotel, Exeter. MARY BURR.

THE TITLE BACILLUS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I note in last week's journal that a contemporary is alarmed lest trained nurses in the State of Pennsylvania should be allowed to place the modest letters "R.N.," signifying Registered Nurse, after their names, and talks about the ravages of the "title bacillus." May I remind your contemporary that, in this country at least, this bacillus has a strong affinity for the male sex. From the Garter (with the special attraction of which we are well acquainted) right down the whole gamut to the modest C.B., titles, honours, and distinctions are with few exceptions, the prerogative of the male sex. Why not tilt at some of these rather than at the little R.N., about which, unlike the Garter, there is, after all, some merit, inasmuch as it must be earned by sheer hard work?

May I suggest to those members of the public and others who object to any differentiation between the genuine article and the "fake" in the matter of nurses that the day may come when, laid aside, they are submitted to the ministrations of the latter. I rather think that they will rise from their sick beds—if so be they do rise from them—sadder and wiser, and less inclined to cavil at the reasonable demands of trained nurses.

Yours obediently,
CERTIFICATED NURSE.

Comments and Replies.

Miss E. E. Nash.—We should suggest that you write to the Medical Superintendent, Tooting Bec Asylum, Tooting, S.W., which is an Asylum for Imbeciles under the Metropolitan Asylums Board.

Mrs. P., Devonshire.—See our advertisement columns, where you will find several posts advertised such as you are seeking. If none of these prove suitable, your best plan would be to insert an advertisement yourself, stating exactly what you require.

Miss G., Walsall.—Obtain the 1905 edition of Wellcome's "Photographic Exposure Record and Diary." You would find it very helpful to you in photographic work. It is published by the well-known firm of Burroughs, Wellcome and Co., Snow Hill Buildings, London, E.C., and, like all their specialities, is in a most compact form.

Monthly Nurse.—It is always desirable for an infant to have a separate cot, and not to be placed in the same bed with the mother. In some cases it is well to place a hot-water bottle in the cot. In this case extreme caution should be used to ensure (1) that the bottle is sound, (2) that it does not leak round the stopper, (3) that it is adequately protected. A lack of precaution in any of these respects may result in the serious burning or scalding of the child.

Miss Emily Watson.—There is no Central Preliminary Training-School for Nurses in this country. A few hospitals have preliminary schools of their own, but this is the exception, not the rule, and the maintenance of such schools is too costly for any but the larger hospitals to attempt. Our opinion is that such schools should be organised by a Central Authority, on the collegiate system, the students paying their own expenses. Such students would subsequently be much more valuable as probationers than candidates who had received no such instruction, and probably, therefore, would be placed first on the list of the training-schools for vacancies.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

All those desirous of helping on the important movement of this Society to obtain a Bill providing for the legal registration of trained nurses will find an application form on page vii., or can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

Those nurses who are working on behalf of the above Society, and are endeavouring to spread knowledge as to its aims, may be glad to know that they can now obtain a Memorandum giving briefly the reasons why Registration is necessary, from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Price 6d. for 20 copies.

Those interested in the efficient organisation of nursing should procure the Annual Report of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Six copies, post free, 7d., or one copy 1½d. Gives brief review of the history of State Registration of Nurses.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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