

and the child's white little hand goes out to the plate upon which is a heap of fresh green watercress, he is soon nibbling the succulent leaves, and somehow the bread and butter goes down too. Probably a farthing a day kept Dicky in creases, until one day there was a screen round the little cot, and one more inmate of the ward had gone to discover the great secret.

No! whatever economies are effected in hospitals, I hope it won't be in the diet-sheets.

Yours faithfully,
A CHILD LOVER.

NURSING HOMES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Well-conducted Nursing Homes are a very great blessing to numbers of people, and a great saving of anxiety to their friends, but such institutions must be well and professionally organised. I have had other experience, sad to say, and can corroborate what "Beaumont Street" writes about untrained women being employed to nurse the paying patients. Apart from the danger of this practice—surely it amounts to fraud—a high price is charged for efficient nursing, as apart from board and lodging, and surely skilled nursing should be provided. And is it not most unjust that Superintendents should charge raw workers a fee for training, as is done in one Home I know, as real training is impossible? The system appears to me doubly dishonest; the patient gets unskilled service, and the probationer a little scrappy knowledge, which is worse than useless to fit her for her future career as a trained nurse. The care of patients at night is also very inadequate in many Nursing Homes.—I am, yours truly,

MOTHER OF PATIENT.

PRACTICAL EDUCATION IN DOMESTIC SCIENCE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I was very interested in the article by Miss Calmus in your issue of last week on the work of the Lette-Verein in Berlin, in relation to the practical education, in domestic science, of girls of the better classes.

One thing must have struck all visitors to the International Congress of Women in Berlin last year, namely, the thoroughness with which German ladies carry out everything they undertake. Surely this is the secret of their success as housewives. They are not content to be frivolous and to leave the good or bad order of their households to chance servants. They themselves must know how each domestic duty is performed by practical experience, so as to be able to direct their households aright. If all English girls received the same instruction, we should hear less of the shortcomings of servants.

Judging from the type of girl who now enters our hospitals as probationer, the ignorance of the middle-class woman of practical household work is colossal. What are English mothers about that their daughters cannot even make a bed one would care to sleep in, do not know how to handle a broom, and are apparently rather proud of the fact as evidence of gentility, while their needlework would often disgrace a fourth standard schoolgirl? They seem quite to have missed the fact of the dignity of work.—Yours faithfully,

AN ADMIRER OF GERMAN THOROUGHNESS.

Comments and Replies.

Midge.—Copies of the questions of the examination of the British Gynæcological Society held in Gynæcological Nursing on September 15th, 1904, are to be found in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for October 1st, 1904. The Journal can be obtained from the offices, 11, Adam Street, Strand, W.C.

E. H. R.—You might write to Mrs. M. D. Palmer (Author of "Lessons on Massage"), 56, Westminster Mansions, London, S.W. (near Westminster Abbey); Dr. Fletcher Little, 32, Harley Street, Cavendish Square, London, S.W.; the Matron, the National Hospital, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, W.C.; and the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses, 12, Buckingham Street, Strand. Dr. Fletcher Little makes a considerable reduction in his terms to trained nurses, his fee to them being, we believe, £5. They can also take the lessons at times convenient to themselves. We believe the usual courses are for two or three months.

Miss Evans.—A charming material for nurses' veils is the Virnot Veiling, supplied by Messrs. E. and R. Garroul, 150, Edgware Road, Hyde Park, W. In addition to its softness and lustre, it has a quality which makes it specially valuable to nurses. It is not affected by water, but, when dried and ironed after being placed in it, is as good as ever. We know no other veiling which can be treated in this way with like result.

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 a brief review of the history of State Registration of Nurses.

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.

Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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