

NURSING SCANDALS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Having attended several sittings of the Select Committee on Nursing in the House of Commons, one cannot but marvel at the apparent inability of several members of the Committee to realise the danger to the sick of criminal persons having full scope to act as nurses, or pose as such—at least they seem to think these impostors have nothing to do with the case of trained nurses. But from personal experience as a private nurse, I know it is most injurious to us that our name and uniform can be dragged into the dock by women of evil life, and that the police reports in the Press of their doings do prejudice the public against us. It is not long ago that a patient when convalescent wanted her watch and trinkets, and she informed me quite casually that her mother had thought it safer to put them under lock and key as a nurse was coming into the house, as cases of nurses thieving were so constantly reported in the papers!

At another case members of the family insisted upon measuring out the stimulants and on seeing the patient take them, showing distinctly by their action that they feared I should swallow them instead of left to my own devices, and constantly friends of patients have treated me with suspicion until I proved my instincts were not criminal. So the fact that we are classed with immoral persons does injure us considerably. No doubt there are no more bad women in the nursing ranks proper than in any other rank of life, but so much more depends upon the high moral tone of the nursing profession than upon many other occupations that association in the public mind with thieves and loose women is more injurious to us than it is to others. Nobody made a fuss in South Africa because Society women were indiscreet, but see what a tremendous outcry there was because a few of the nurses made fools of themselves.

Yours truly,
A. N. S. R.

Comments and Replies.

Candidate.—The first written examination under the authority of the Central Midwives' Board will take place on June 27th, and will be held in London, Bristol, Manchester, and Newcastle-on-Tyne. Schedules, on which application must be made, will be supplied by the Secretary, 6, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, London, S.W., and must be received by June 6th.

Provincial Matron.—The essential points to remember in organising a Nurses' League are that it should consist of the certificated nurses of the training-school concerned, that membership should be voluntary, and that it should be self-governing. In some cases nurses who have held positions of responsibility in the institution concerned are admitted for a certain period after its formation. Others have associates. Some endeavour to interest the third year probationers in the work and aims of the League is made in some instances. Especially is this the case with the Alumnae Associations in the United States, which correspond with the Leagues in this country.

In Difficulty.—Our advice to you is to enter a general hospital of not less than 100 beds, where the three years' standard of training is maintained.

Our Five Guinea Prize Competition.

A Prize of Five Guineas will be awarded each quarter by the Editor to the author of the best article on some practical nursing subject of about 2,000 words in length, with illustrations, of which photographs must be enclosed, and under the following conditions:—

1. Each competitor must enclose with his or her article a sealed envelope, outside which is written the title of the article, and inside a piece of paper containing the name of the article and the author's full name and address.

2. The decision as to the winner of the Prize will be made by the Editor, and the decision must be accepted by each competitor as final and unquestionable. The Prize cannot be won twice in any one year by the same competitor.

3. The Editor reserves to herself the right to publish, if she thinks fit, any of the articles received for the competition; and in such an event will pay the author of such article the sum of one guinea, such article to become the property and copyright of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

4. Each competitor must be an annual subscriber to the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

The first Prize will be awarded on June 22nd, and all articles competing for it must be received by the Editor not later than SATURDAY, JUNE 17TH. The successful article will appear on July 1st.

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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