

chism, for I know they could give a good account of themselves and of the Registration question. They have studied both the Bills before Parliament, clause by clause, and hold strong opinions as to the merits of each. From my own experience of nurses, I cannot but think that where nurses fail to take an intelligent interest in professional matters it is because their Superintendents have failed to impress upon them the importance of this duty by example and precept.

As for an interest in the drama, why not? Nurses when on duty come in contact with many tragedies. Why, when they are off duty should they not have some enjoyment? It relaxes the tension of strained nerves for awhile, and so enables them to brace themselves up again for future work.

Yours faithfully,

SUPERINTENDENT.

[There seems to be a considerable diversity of opinion on this question. Personally we consider that where the Matron interests herself in the matter, and endeavours to help the nursing staff over whom she presides to understand the question, that they are wonderfully responsive.—Ed.]

THE LIABILITY OF CORPORATIONS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The decision of Mr. Justice Walton in relation to the question of the liability of Corporations, and presumably, therefore, also of Nursing Institutions supplying nurses to the public, for the acts of their employees will be received with widespread satisfaction by those responsible for the management of private nursing homes and co-operations. The judgment appears to me sound.

In the case under discussion (*i.e.*, that in which the Liverpool Corporation was sued because a child discharged from its infectious hospital was stated to have conveyed scarlet fever to other members of his family) the nursing staff of the hospital was specially exonerated by the jury from any blame in the matter. It is possible, therefore, to discuss the question quite impartially. Surely if an institution takes all care in selecting its nursing staff, if it accepts only nurses holding the certificates of good training-schools, and then an individual nurse is guilty of a gross act of carelessness such as burning a patient with hot-water bottles, or failing to disinfect a patient properly in spite of precise orders to do so, whereby infection is conveyed to other persons, the consequences of such acts should fall upon the perpetrator. Such at least is the opinion of—Yours faithfully,

HOSPITAL MATRON.

THE DECLINE OF POPULARITY.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Canon Scott Holland the other day described the estimation in which the various dignitaries of the Church are held in the public mind thus:—A curate is "adored," a rector is "beloved," a dean is "respected," and a bishop is "criticised." Is it not somewhat the same in our own profession? The probationer is an injured martyr, the Staff Nurse is not half a bad sort, the Sister is a martinet, and the Matron is an ogre. Why this decline of popularity as the scale ascends? Is it possible that the green-eyed monster has anything to do with the matter?

Yours faithfully,

ONE OF THE OGRES.

Comments and Replies.

Would-be Probationer.—Many of the County Hospitals give an excellent training. They receive cases not only from the town or city in which they are situated but from the surrounding neighbourhood, and they usually have on their staff the leading medical men of the vicinity. An advantage of training in one of the smaller hospitals is that there is no medical school, and, consequently, nurses have the opportunity of doing many dressings which would be left to students. Also, their experience of theatre work is, as a rule, admirable.

Maternity Pupil.—It is important that a second ligature should be placed on the cord after the infant's first bath, as, though the first may have been securely tied, the cord may shrink in the bath, in which case the ligature being loose might slip off, and in any case would not fulfil its function of arresting hæmorrhage.

Miss James.—We should advise you to arrange to spend at least a year in a fever hospital; this is a short enough time, but a nurse's life being of limited duration, unless she devotes herself to this branch entirely, she cannot as a rule afford a longer period for this special experience. Write to the Matrons of the Metropolitan Asylums Board Hospitals.

Midwife.—The most comfortable pulley is one about 4 or 5 inches wide, knitted with soft white knitting cotton. It should be about 4 yards long. It is then doubled. The loop thus formed is passed round the bar at the end of the bed and the ends drawn through. Or in knitting the pulley when it is long enough, half the stitches may be cast off and the remaining stitches knitted on so as to form a strip, which can be stitched up to the main portion. In this event the pulley need not be so long.

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 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.