

do luv him, and we do antic too." Comment is needless.

I would suggest that to educate our nursing opponents the following plan should be tried. They should be sent to do a year's duty as Matron in a provincial hospital of, say, 100 beds or under. I think it would teach them *why* Registration is urgently needed.

They would find many a hospital where the training of the nurses is *nil*—certificate granted at the end of two or three years, of course—where single-handed the Matron, if keen on doing her duty, has to initiate some scheme of training, such as lectures and yearly examinations, often in the teeth of much opposition, where ordinary routine for the nursing staff is regarded as "Matron's fad," and can be made almost impossible.

Where the difficulty of filling the vacancies for probationers with *suitable* well-educated candidates is perennial. There is many a town where the half-trained, undisciplined nurse flourishes, and sets a low standard of nurses and nursing for the place. A few of such ordinary experiences would make it impossible, I think, for a Matron to say, "the number of unsatisfactory nurses is exaggerated," or "I have no experience whatever of small hospitals and their working"—tone implying they are beneath notice. Yet, dear lady, it is from these same small hospitals that year by year numberless nurses are turned out to compete with and to outnumber those from your own up-to-date, well-disciplined wards.

To some unimaginative people it is only by eating the pudding that they can prove it. I fancy after a year's experience of some of the smaller provincial hospitals our nursing opponents would realise the urgent need for Registration and abandon their present attitude.

All honour to those who rule well and successfully, our pattern hospitals, but still more to those who spare time and thought for their profession at large, remembering that till some official standard is laid down, many hospitals will remain passive in regard to proper training and education for their nurses. And as a chain is only as strong as its weakest link, it is the un-hall marked, inefficient nurse who sets the standard for the laity and provokes criticism of an unfavourable sort all over the country.

Yours faithfully,  
EX-PROVINCIAL MATRON.

## Comments and Replies.

*Miss E. O. Evans, Leicester.*—Both letters and enclosures safely received, with thanks.

*Three Years' Certificate.*—All knowledge is valuable, and the more special branches of nursing you are acquainted with the better equipped you will be for the practice of your profession, and for meeting any emergency with which you are faced. We sympathise with you in your disinclination to sever your connection with your training-school. But is this essential? If you told your Matron that you wish to study midwifery could you not get leave of absence for this purpose?

*Monthly Nurse.*—As a rule, the more premature an infant is the more its food should be diluted. It is easy to understand that at seven months an infant's stomach is less developed, and consequently less capable of assimilation, than at nine months.

## 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 or engravings 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.

All articles competing for the Prize must be received by the Editor, at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W., not later than SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD. The successful article will appear in the Autumn Special Number.

## 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. It 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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