

considered not strong enough to finish their training. Nowadays a nurse who is below the mark has at once to report herself, and is speedily taken in hand by the medical man appointed to look after her health. Quite right again, I am not denying it, but it seems to me that we have lost something in these days of the grit and endurance of those sterner times, that the present life, I had almost said of luxury, in our Nursing Homes is a poor preparation for the ups and downs of private nursing, and that we shall do well to keep in mind at least the memory of those days when theatre passes, bicycle clubs, and other recreations which the modern nurse considers a matter of course, were things unknown.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
ANTIQUATED.

Comments and Replies.

Staff Nurse.—The Report from the Select Committee on Registration of Nurses may be obtained from Wyman and Sons, Ltd., 109, Fetter Lane, Fleet Street, E.C., or direct through any bookseller.

Miss S., Bournemouth.—Certainly you will find experience as a private nurse most useful. Self-reliance and resource are qualities which this branch of work brings out. There are no ward sisters, and house surgeons and physicians to fall back upon in times of emergency, and much responsibility in critical cases frequently falls upon the nurse. A pleasant side of the work is that it enables a nurse to see many interesting places in the course of her duties which otherwise she would have no means of visiting.

Miss James.—By all means write when your plans are more matured.

In Training.—Every nurse who intends to take up district work should make a special study of hygiene and of sanitary matters, for a considerable part of her work is preventive. As she goes from house to house amongst the poor she is able to give advice which might be resented from a district visitor, but which will be thought over when offered by the nurse who has nursed a sick child back to health or cared for the old father or mother to the end. By inculcating the laws of health "here a little and there a little" a nurse can help to build up the national physique, and, further, to prevent suffering which is the penalty of ignorance. Time is well spent in equipping herself efficiently for this good work.

M. H.—The formula for green soap and its preparation is as follows:—Caustic potash 13 ozs., linseed-oil 40 ozs., alcohol 4 ozs. (N.B.—The formula is an American one, in which country the term alcohol often means methylated spirit.) Heat the oil in a vessel to 140 deg. F. Dissolve the potash in 67 ozs. of hot water. Add the alcohol and let it cool. Then add the heated oil, stirring constantly until mixed. Let the mixture stand for twelve hours and add alcohol. It is used for scrubbing purposes (thus before an operation the hands and forearms may be scrubbed with a brush and green soap under running water as hot as can be borne for ten minutes). Complete surgical cleanliness is then obtained by the subsequent use of an active antiseptic.

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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