

logy, in mental nursing, or in infectious work, in addition to proficiency in general nursing.

I often wonder what plan Committees adopt in the selection of candidates for Matrons' posts, and how the elimination process is managed. If application were made to some such expert body of Matrons as the Matrons' Council for their opinion on the merits of applicants, it could not fail to be very helpful.

I am, Dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
A LOVER OF JUSTICE.

[We quite agree with the views of our correspondent. It is time that some educational standard was required of applicants for Matrons' posts. It is very unjust to thoroughly trained nurses that they should be superseded by those who are known by them to have had quite an inadequate training. It is difficult, however, to gain such a standard until the educational curriculum required of all nurses is defined by the State, although something might be done if there were more co-operation between Matrons.

In regard to special work, especially in gynaecology, our correspondent's advice is sound. We inspect the credentials of many nurses in the course of the year, and quite two out of every three, although they hold three years' certificates, have had no adequate experience in gynaecological or fever work, so that we often have to advise them to obtain this experience.

We hear on all sides that, with the exception of the large training-schools, it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain the right sort of probationers, and this difficulty will increase if hospitals demand four years' labour from their nurses without securing to them some equivalent in the labour market. One of our colonies has already set us an excellent example in regard to a standard for Matrons, the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association having defined a curriculum qualifying nurses for a certificate of technical fitness for Matronships, and we learn from *Una* this month that the labours of the Council in this direction have received almost unanimous approval all over the colony.—Ed.]

HOSPITAL COOKERY.

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

Can the Editor tell "Provincial Matron" of any Hospital in which nurses serve for two or three months at a time in the kitchen, under a Sister who has been trained as a cook, or an ordinary cook (not a chef), so that they may gain practical experience in cooking and hospital diets?

[We believe that at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, a lady cook is in charge of the general kitchen, but we are not aware of any general hospital kitchen where nurses are taught the cooking of the patients' diets. We were much interested in going over the General Hospital, Montreal, to find that in a special diet kitchen the nurses did the whole of the cooking for the paying patients. Perhaps some of our readers may be able to give "Provincial Matron" some information on this point through this journal.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Probationer.—We strongly advise you from the beginning of your nursing career to keep a private notebook and to enter in it notes of interesting cases, and information which you yourself have gleaned connected with your work in the wards. You will find such a notebook of great value to you as time goes on. We should also advise you to obtain some standard books on nursing subjects which will be useful for reference purposes and which will form the nucleus of a small nursing library.

Nurse Parsons.—Izal is a disinfectant which is very widely used, the points which have gained favour for it no doubt being that while it is a strong germicide it is non-corrosive and non-poisonous. It is supplied by Newton, Chambers & Co., Ltd., Thorncliffe, near Sheffield.

Pupil Midwife.—A protruding navel is very frequently caused by traction on the cord at the time of the birth of the child, and is a contingency that the nurse or midwife should always carefully guard against. It can often be rectified after the separation of the cord by the application of a suitable pad under the binder. The condition is one with which the medical attendant should be acquainted; it may easily develop into umbilical hernia.

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 vi., or can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. 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. Six copies, post free, 7d., or one copy 1½d. It gives a brief review of the history of State Registration.

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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