

## A STANDARD FOR MATRONS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—It seems high time that hospital Committees had some standard other than looks and frocks to go by in appointing Matrons, as it is most unfair on a school and those who train in it, to be placed under women who have never gone through the mill. Is it presumable that if a woman had ever done nine months' night duty on end, she would tolerate such a system as long term night duty in the hospital over which she presided? I don't think so. Also, if she had been taught cooking many a nursing staff would stand the strain of hospital work better than they do to-day, as she could then point out what was wrong in the commissariat, instead of being dependent on the knowledge of others. It is very disheartening to equip oneself for a Matron's post to the best of one's ability, and then be passed over by Committees of men, who know very little of what goes to train a Matron, for others far less experienced. The East End women wanted the Premier to go and live down East a bit, to realise how the poor live. I should like hospital Chairmen to be put on night duty for six months or so at a time, and see if it agreed with their health, or do a year's "Lady Pro" and then say if they felt justified in accepting a certificate as a trained nurse. We must have a standard for Matrons if we are to progress. Qualities are required in them that every trained nurse does not necessarily possess.

"A PERMANENT NIGHT NURSE."

[We wonder why our correspondent is a permanent night nurse. Surely the most obsolete Committee could be influenced by the Matron to abolish such a system.—ED.]

## ORGANISED TESTIMONIALS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Many nurses with a light purse will thank you for your expression of opinion on "organised testimonials" in hospitals, and the sooner "highly placed officials" cease to curry favour through the contributions of others the better for the tone of the school.

At one so-called nurses "Co-op" where I worked, we were compelled to "pay tribute" if we hoped to get our cases in turn; or, indeed, any but the most poorly paid work, a system it was no use objecting to, as the Committee upheld the Chief Officer in every complaint she made against us, and it meant paying or departing. All senior paid officers should be instructed that no such testimonials are permissible.

"SUFFERER."

## A Word for the Week.

The Rev. Anna Garlin Spencer to Nurses at the New York City Training School.

It is a saying among the Mahomedans that no man shall put his foot upon the smallest piece of paper that contains the smallest bit from The Koran, lest he tread upon the name of God. It is a greater saying, That no man shall place his foot in oppression upon the meanest human being, lest he tread upon the image of God.

## Comments and Replies.

Miss Eekersley.—We are much obliged by your communication.

Maternity Nurse.—Particulars of Southall's specialities may be obtained on application to Messrs. Southall Bros. and Barclay, Ltd., Birmingham. You would find them very useful and satisfactory. The firm is one of high standing, and in regard to their special towels they are the original introducers of these articles, and have kept well to the fore in connection with improvements.

Assistant Nurse.—It is often a difficult matter to keep the heads of tuberculous children in a clean condition. They may, apparently, have been thoroughly cleansed, and if left alone for a few days are found to be again infested. The only thing in such cases is to use a small comb night and morning, whether there is apparently a necessity for it or not.

Three Years' Certificate.—You are quite eligible for membership of the Society for the State Registration of Nurses. You can fill in the form of application inserted in this journal, any further forms you require for friends are obtainable on application to the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, W. The subscription for members is 1s. annually, or 5s. life membership, so long as the Society exists for its present purpose.

## 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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