

Surely whatever qualities are required in ward work, personal responsibility is not stimulated by it, whilst when one is going from house to house, where one must depend so often upon one's own judgment, one gains tremendously in self-control, tact, force of character, and sound judgment, that is if one is to be a professional success. I quite agree with you that "Co-operations represent the highest development in private nursing in this country," and it is good to have a word of encouragement sometimes. With no State Protection or Standards we have to compete with so many discouraging elements in private work.

Member R.N.S.

[It is just because there is no State guarantee to the public that a nurse is efficient, and that she has to compete with untrained, and very often with disreputable persons exploiting the sick in private houses, that Private Nursing has come to be considered second-rate work for nurses. When this unjust competition is made impossible by State Registration of the efficient this most important branch of nursing will rise in public and professional estimation.—Ed.]

#### DUSTBINS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—As a wide range of subjects is covered in the discussions which take place in your valuable journal, may I say a word on the unattractive but very important matter of dustbins.

I had no idea how largely they loomed on one's horizon until, tired with average lodgings, and still more with the average landlady, I took a small flat, resolving once within its doors to be my own mistress. The change was a delightful one, but there is no rose without a thorn, and my thorn was dustbins. When will it strike our sanitary authorities that the whole system of dust collection is not only antiquated but dangerous? Walk along the street in the morning, as I do between 9 and 10 a.m., and even in London's most fashionable thoroughfares you will see battered tin receptacles filled with garbage and rubbish of all sorts standing on the pavement. Often, moreover, this is being raked over, and fragments disseminated by some poor wretch who hopes to find some treasure thrown away by careless servants.

Why need dustbins be battered? someone asks. Let that person watch a dustman handle them, and throw them about, he will cease to wonder. The dustbin of the most careful housewife looks disreputable within a week under this treatment. In small flats the question of the dustbin is an acute one. On Sunday it is full to overflowing, and it must be noted that its position is as a rule under the sink, and close to cooking stove and the meat safe. When Bank Holiday follows on Sunday, and the weather is that of a hot August, the dustbins become not only a nuisance but a menace to health. But it is something if they are as a rule removed daily. In the flats to which I refer there was a row of dustbins down in the basement, into which the residents emptied their rubbish daily, and the dustman removed their contents once a week presuming he did not forget. The stench of those

dustbins rose up to and pervaded the flat at the very top of the block. Complaints to the landlord seemed useless. "Never mind" I said to my factotum one hot evening when the dustbins had been unusually trying. "The dustman will be here tomorrow morning." When she brought my early cup of tea I asked sleepily if the dustman had been. "If you please 'm," she said, "'e's 'ere, and the caretaker's bin and gone to his brekfis and taken the key of the basement, and the dustman says 'e can't wylte, and if 'e don't 'ave the rubbish now 'e can't come for another week and wot's 'e to do?"

Is it not time that blocks of flats were supplied with incinerators where the rubbish could be burnt daily? It can't be consumed by gas stoves and surely in a city practising the elements of sanitation garbage should not be left to decompose for a week, and evolve noxious gases penetrating every corner of a building.

Yours faithfully,  
HYGIENE.

#### Comments and Replies.

*Miss Evans.*—We should advise you to apply to the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for a vacancy rather than take an isolated post in which you will not have the status accorded to Queen's Nurses.

*Two Years' Certificate.*—You would not be eligible for the position of Charge Nurse under the Metropolitan Asylums Board as a three years' certificate of general training is required in every instance.

*Would-be Probationer.*—By all means attend a course of St. John's Ambulance lectures if you have the opportunity. You will find them very helpful.

#### Notices.

##### 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.

##### THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

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.

##### OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page viii.

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