

IS THIS TRUE?

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have a puzzle which I want to find a solution for. Here it is: Why does one read so much of good nurses, yet one so rarely meets them? Now, I am not a nurse, and don't wish to be one. I speak from an experience of provincial nurses, and the more I think of them, the more I wonder whether it doesn't seem as if all the women who have no intelligence worth speaking of become nurses.

As I have said, I know nothing about nursing, but I feel I should much like to make many nursing reforms!

In the first place (I think) I should insist on a nurse possessing the gift of a keen insight into human nature. Therefore it would be necessary for her to have brains. At present I have found this is not at all necessary. Any little—or big—fool can come along and be a nurse, it seems to me, providing she is sharp enough to get through the technical business of training.

My opinion of nurses, in the bulk, is that they are simply mechanically trained ones, and with more or less an air of superiority (it may be unconscious) over those poor inferior beings who do not happen to be "trained nurses."—Yours truly,

"MARSETS."

Comments and Replies.

Nurse Moore, Southampton.—We do not understand your enquiry *re* Catalogue. Will you kindly write again.

M. A. K.—Your best plan would be to insert an advertisement in the columns of this Journal. Application as to terms should be made to the Manager, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 11, Adam Street, Strand.

H. G., Stepney.—Write to the Casualty Insurance Company, Ltd., 7, Waterloo Place, S.W.

Nurse A., Selworthy.—We cannot at present inform you of the period to be covered by the lectures.

E. E.—A body may be washed in the ordinary way with one of the disinfectants which is compatible with soap. If the case is an infectious one, it should be wrapped in a sheet wrung out in a strong solution as for instance 1 in 20 carbolic acid. The reason why a body is left for two hours before washing, is (1) to allow *rigor mortis* to set in, and (2) to avoid any appearance of undue haste. It should of course be straightened shortly after death. A good photographer would advise you as to your other enquiry.

Miss Robinson.—Order the Journal through your local newsagent.

Nurse A. M. C.—If you wish to apply for an appointment in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service for India, you should write to the Under-Secretary of State, India Office, St. James's Park, S.W. In regard to your other enquiries, we should advise you to advertise in the columns of this Journal.

Enquirer.—The Droitwich Brine Crystals supplied by Messrs. Weston & Westall, Ltd., Eastcheap, E.C., are a crystallised form of the actual Droitwich Brine intended for the convenience of those who cannot visit the springs.

Three Prize Competitions.

The Editor offers the following prizes:—

No. 1. PRACTICAL NURSING ARTICLE.

A prize of £2 2s. for the best article on a Practical Nursing Subject, of from 1,300 to 1,400 words. Illustrations are not compulsory, but add to the value of the article. Papers competing for this prize must be received by the Editor not later than Saturday, November 10th. The article gaining the prize and the name or pseudonym of the prize-winner will appear on November 17th.

No 2. PUZZLE COMPETITION.

Details will be found on page viii.

No. 3. A PARAGRAPH OF PRACTICAL NURSING INTEREST.

A prize of 10s. for the best paragraph on a postcard of practical nursing interest. See our weekly "Practical Points" column. Postcards competing for this prize must reach the Editor not later than Saturday, November 3rd. The paragraph gaining the prize, and the name or pseudonym of the prize-winner will be published on Saturday, Nov. 10th.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING COMPETITIONS 1 AND 3.

Each competitor for No. 1 Prize must enclose with his or her article or paragraph a sealed envelope, outside which is written the title of the contents only, and inside the title of the contents with the author's full name and address. The covering envelope in the case of Competition 1, and the postcard in Competition 3, should bear the words "Prize Competition."

The Editor reserves to herself the right to publish any of the articles or paragraphs received for the competition. In such event payment will be made at the current rate; such article or paragraph to become the property and copyright of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

All competitions must be addressed to the Editor, at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

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, W. Six copies, post free, 7d.

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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