

to say is) a help to isolated district and private nurses.

There is no reason why nurses should not belong to a purely professional league, and whilst they are working in the country, join the Nurses' Social Union temporarily. Miss Isla Stewart, in a speech at the Conference in St. George's Hall, said: "These organisations offer us an opportunity to give as well as to get." That is the keynote of all effectual co-operation for the common good.

If people would concentrate their thoughts on what they could "put into" Leagues and Unions, that hindering spirit of criticism which is such a drag to advance, would die of inanition.

Our methods are guided by professional advice. We have lectures by the leading medical men, a collection of nursing requisites from the best known firms and a library of up-to-date technical books.

To illustrate the use to which the mechanism of the N.S.U. may be put in forming opinions on the questions of the day, I may mention that in the year 1905 five meetings on State Registration were held under its auspices. Three meetings were addressed by Miss Bumpus and two by Miss Amy Hughes (General Superintendent of the Queen's Institute).

Our elasticity of method enabled us to invite to these meetings some of the people most likely to influence public and Parliamentary opinion. So that it must be conceded that the lay element has its useful purpose sometimes.

I shall be very glad to receive suggestions from nurses who have lived in agricultural districts.—  
Yours faithfully,

EVELYN L. C. EDEN.

[We think the Nurses' Social Union an admirable society, and it will, we feel sure, make for good feeling between the cottage nurses and women interested in nursing in country districts. We do not see how such a social society can in any way enter into rivalry with Leagues of certificated nurses.

Miss Eden is not quite correct in her estimate of certificated Nurses' Leagues when she describes them as "purely professional." These associations of nurses provide both for social gatherings as well as professional purposes, and there is nothing in their constitution to prevent the members joining any other society they choose.

Should a Nurses' Social Union be formed in every county — composed, as it is, of those working together for the care of the sick, Matrons, trained nurses, cottage nurses, and lay women who largely control county and rural nursing associations—its scope is so different from the work of Leagues of trained nurses, especially those which are affiliated in the National Council of Nurses and the International Council of Nurses, that no possible rivalry can arise between the two organisations. Both working on distinct lines, they may well wish each other an increasingly successful future.—Ed.]

We regret that owing to pressure on our space other correspondence is unavoidably held over until next week.

## Comments and Replies.

*Miss Eldon.*—If the temperature is taken in the axilla this should always be dried first in order to remove any perspiration which may be present. It should not be taken in the mouth immediately after the patient has had either a hot or cold drink.

*Provincial Matron.*—The Hon. Secretary of the Matrons' Council will be pleased to send an application form. Write to 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

*Puzzled.*—The question raised in the paper to which you refer was not the treatment and cure of a delusion (or rather illusion) but that of the tact required to induce the patient to submit to the treatment of his temporary physical condition, a power frequently needed by the mental nurse over and above the ordinary skill of the general nurse in the management of the general patient. The point made was this: If a mental patient takes it into his head that the splint which has been applied is a telegraph post, to which he is tied, neither argue, nor contradict, nor agree that the splint is a telegraph pole, but get the patient to see that whether the appliance be telegraph pole or splint it is the very thing he needs.

## The Nurses' Petition to the Prime Minister.

The Nurses' Petition to the Prime Minister respectfully pleading that the Government will undertake to introduce a Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses into the House of Commons next Session, will be found on page vi. in our advertisement columns. Will all who wish to support this Petition whether medical practitioners, nurses, or members of the public, cut out this page, sign the Petition, invite others to do so, and then post it to the Hon. Secretary, Nurses' Petition, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Will our readers also make it known that anyone desiring to sign this Petition can do so at the above address. The time in which to organise this Petition is very short, so we hope all readers will help.

## 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.

### OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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