

(4) A Nursing Directory will do none of these things. There are already three such books printed—one by the R.B.N.A., one under the authority of the Matrons' Council, and one by Sir Henry Burdett. They are all waste paper. A Directory could supplement a State Register, as is done in the case of the medical profession, but without the State defined qualifications for trained nursing it has proved to be worse than useless.

(5) We welcome the evidence distinctly proclaimed in the Bill drafted by the Central Hospital Council—that the non-possimus attitude in relation to registration has been abandoned by it. Let us hope that the hospital governors and medical practitioners who form it may realise in the near future that the legal organisation of the profession of nursing is primarily a nurses' question, and that to exclude them from all co-operation in framing laws they will be compelled to obey is intolerable to any conscientious human being, and one to which trained nurses and women generally will not submit. Based by a woman of genius, Florence Nightingale, on sound principles, the skilled nursing of the sick has been perfected by many devoted women during the past half century. It is our work, our profession to be. As we have slaved for it in the past so we must care for it in the future. We have made it, we have a right to keep it, and by self-government zealously guard the honour of the profession we form. This high ambition should commend itself to every honourable man, and that there are many such on the Central Hospital Council for London inspires hope that it may yet help us to found the Profession of Nursing so that all classes may enjoy the tenderest and most skilled attention in the sick room. We believe that just here Mr. Holland is at one with us.—Ed.]

CLEANSING THE TEETH IN HOSPITAL.

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

DEAR MADAM,—“A Paying Pro.” may take heart of grace. Her letter in your widely-read journal has already done good, as I can testify. Our Matron, who is constantly urging improvements in details of ward nursing, has got permission to provide the wards with the white enamelled beakers suggested by Miss Mollett, and as soon as they come we are directed to hand them round daily at washing time to the patients. This will be very little trouble, and a great boon to the sick. There is another point of health which might well be ventilated in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and that is: How much body should be washed daily of patients in bed? In the *Bristol Times* last week appeared a very well-written, appreciative letter from a patient recently in a local hospital. In it I note:—“Basins of warm water are handed round, and those who cannot sit up and wash their own hands and faces are attended to by the nurses.” I have worked in several institutions, and in none have I found written instructions for nurses on this important matter of nursing, for surely to wash the hands and face only is not keeping the body clean—to my

mind the basic principle of good nursing. I make bold to say it is not done in many wards.

Yours truly,

A SISTER.

[This matter seems to crop up constantly. We regret that lack of space prevents our publishing other letters received on this subject.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Monos, Mitcham Junction.—We should advise you to write to the Secretary, Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives, Dacre House, Dean Farrar Street, Westminster, S.W. If trained with the assistance of this Association you will be required to bind yourself to serve it for some years. If you desire to be free at the end of your training write to the Matrons of the Maternity Hospitals notified in our advertisement Supplement, enclosing a stamped envelope, and ask for information as to terms, length of training, and when vacancies are likely to occur. Blackie's Physiology is a good elementary text-book.

Superintendent, Provincial Nursing Institution.—The operation boxes which are taken to surgical cases, when desired, by the nurses on the private nursing staff of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and which are proving so popular with both surgeons and nurses, are made by Down Bros., Ltd., 21, St. Thomas's Street, Borough.

Mrs. Gavan, West Meath.—We should advise you to write to the Secretary of the Irish Nurses' Association, 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin, and ask her to be good enough to let you know which hospitals are likely to have vacancies.

PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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Consumers should insist upon getting Grape-Nuts in the new moisture-proof covering, which preserves the food as dry, crisp, and charming to the palate as when it leaves the factories.

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