

HOSPITAL INTELLIGENCE.

REPORTS OF INSTITUTIONS, ETC., COMMUNICATED
AND COLLECTED.

WE have much pleasure in calling the attention of our readers to the prospectus of the National Health Society, which the secretary has kindly forwarded to us.

The Society is prepared to arrange for courses of lectures and to hold examinations in the following subjects: (1) Domestic Hygiene; (2) Nursing of the Sick; (3) First Aid to the Injured and Sick. The course in each subject consists of six lectures. The examination is held at the close of each course, and certificates awarded to the successful candidates. Every candidate for examination must have attended four out of the six lectures. Candidates who fail to pass the examination, may present themselves for re-examination at the end of three months. Attendance on a second course of lectures during the interval is optional. The medal of the society is granted by examination. Candidates for the medal must possess three of the Society's certificates in the above subjects. The certificates may have been obtained in each of the subjects; or a second certificate may have been obtained in any one subject by passing a re-examination in it at an interval of not less than three months. It is not necessary that candidates, before presenting themselves for such re-examination, should have attended a second course of lectures on the subject. Candidates may present themselves for the examination for the medal not less than six months after obtaining their third certificate. They will be examined in the subjects for which they have obtained certificates. Candidates, when sending in their names for the medal examination, must state which subjects they wish to be examined in. The fee for single admission to each course of lectures is 10s. 6d.; examination fee, 2s. 6d. The fee for re-examination in any subject is 5s. The fee for examination for the medal is 5s. Those who are desirous of securing courses of lectures at any centre should apply to the secretary. The society is willing to allow special modifications in the above regulations and scale of fees under exceptional circumstances, with the view of meeting the requirements of particular districts; for this, special application must be made to the secretary, F. Lankester, 44, Berners Street, Oxford Street, W.

[Owing to the pressure upon our space, several other matters are crowded out.—ED.]

MORAL courage will always rank higher than physical. The one is a daily necessity, while the other may be required only in emergencies.

CORRESPONDENCE

(Notes, Querles, &c.)

* * We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by Correspondents. Brevity and conciseness will have first consideration. See Notices.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I quite agree with M. Hunt that something should be done by the authorities of our large Nursing Schools, to retain the services of their fully trained Nurses. From personal experience I know of nothing more trying and annoying than the continual change of Staff Nurses. No sooner has one become accustomed to a face, and the Nurse has become conversant with one's "little ways," than she is either moved into another Ward "for further experience," or having gained her certificate, she removes herself to "pastures new." This modern system of constant moving from Ward to Ward is sufficiently irritating with regard to Probationers, but for the sake of their education, and with the attendance of a permanent Sister and Staff Nurse, it could be endured; but in those Hospitals where the term of training is only of two years' duration, and where the Nurses have no inducement to remain in the Hospital upon the expiration of that time, there is no doubt that the Nursing Staff is largely composed of very inexperienced women, to the annoyance of the Surgeon, and Sister, and discomfort of the patient. I have read with great interest the graphic "Hospital Sketches" by that very charming Sister Damian; and as she is evidently a lady possessed of both practical experience and common sense, perhaps it would not be too much to hope, that in some future "sketch" she may touch upon this troublesome question—"How to retain a Staff Nurse."—Yours obediently, F.R.C.S.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—As a member of the Nursing profession of ten years' experience, I should like to endorse what "Matrona" says, concerning the devotion to duty of the great majority of Probationers who have worked in my Ward. My experience is that now and then an empty-headed and unsuitable woman drifts into the work, but, with careful selection on the part of the Matron before their admittance, and conscientious superintendence during the term of their trial, no Matron need now-a-days complain of an influx of young women into Hospital work who are unsuited for its duties. "A bad workman blames his tools." In one large London Hospital, where at present a connection of mine is undergoing a term of two years' training, and where the advantages of the Nursing School are loudly advertised, the Matron has only passed through the Ward where she is on duty, once in three months. She can, therefore, hardly know my friend by sight, much less have any personal knowledge of her aptitude for her work; and although the Matron in a large Hospital must depend, to a certain extent, upon the report of the Sisters concerning their Nurses, still it is neither just to Sister or subordinate that the Committee must rely upon a second-hand report in estimating the qualifications of the Nursing Staff.

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