

Comments and Replies.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Miss A. Brindley.—For information regarding the education and training of medical women apply to the Secretary, Miss Heaton, at the London School of Medicine for Women, Handel Street, Bloomsbury. Unless you have passed one of the required Arts exams, you would not be eligible for admission this winter session.

Mrs. Grove.—It is very kind of you to think how you may employ your leisure time in "a quiet country village" for the benefit of others. You might send some of the results of your clever fingers to the Santa Claus Society, which distributes such articles in Hospitals and Institutions. The warm woollen knitted things we feel sure would be much appreciated. Miss Janie Charles, Stormont, Hampstead Lane, Highgate, London, who is a very energetic worker on behalf of the Santa Claus Society, will, we are assured, be very glad to hear from you.

Mrs. Dwight.—Indeed we cannot tell you when another Nursing Exhibition will be held. Only those who have taken part in the organising of such an exhibit can have any idea of the time, expense, and organisation required to attain to anything like perfection. Of course these Exhibitions are of great professional value, but they cannot be held "every year" as you suggest.

Nurse A. Smith.—Several communications have reached us on the subject of prolonged night duty, of which "Miss Pring" complained in our last issue. There is no question that these long periods of night-work act in the most detrimental way on the physique and health of Nurses. And, of course, secondarily, the patients suffer. No Nurse who is "below par," however conscientiously she may try to do her duty, can continue to give her best to the sick people under her care. Exhausted nature makes its demands, and for

this reason, when the health of the Nurses is not properly considered, the Nursing standard *cannot* be of the highest.

Sister Albert.—See reply to *Nurse A. Smith*. We quite agree with you that no Nurse should be kept for more than two months at a time on night-duty. Although some Nurses prefer night to day-work and often beg Matrons to keep them on beyond the proper time, it certainly should never be allowed. Many Nurses find continued night work seriously affects the eyesight. This is often caused by the constitutional effects of night work, but also through the unusual amount of artificial light. It is not natural to the human eye to be subjected to gas or electric light continuously, and many night Nurses and night Superintendents suffer severely in consequence.

Old-Fashioned Matron.—No, we really cannot agree with you that the "old-fashioned plan" of having a staff of night Nurses, who are always night Nurses, is the best plan. We are very glad—for the sake of the Nurses—that this practice is becoming obsolete. A more dreary life than that lived by a woman who is a perpetual night Nurse can hardly be imagined. And it ages and wears a woman sooner than any other variety of Hospital work can do.

Nurse E. F.—Apply for rules and regulations as to Registration, to the Secretary, Royal British Nurses' Association, 17, Old Cavendish Street, W.

Nurse Withers.—The patient you refer to would probably be received by the Cambridge and Isle of Ely Lunatic Asylum, which is at Fulbourn. Of course it depends whether he belongs to the District Board; the authorities will ascertain that.

Mrs. Smythe.—Your best plan would be to apply to the Registered Nurses' Society, 269, Regent Street, W., from which only thoroughly competent and skilful Nurses who have had full and good training are supplied. It is a very haphazard way to obtain a Nurse—"to send to the nearest Agency." We do not recommend you to follow your friend's advice on this subject.

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