

Professional Reviews.

WE have received a copy of the third edition of "Notes on Medical Nursing," by the late James Anderson, M.D., edited by Ethel F. Lamport, formerly sister at the London Hospital. The book, of which the price is 2s. 6d., is published by Messrs. Lewis of 136, Gower Street, and appears to us to be well and clearly arranged, and likely to be useful to nurses.

The notes on medical nursing are notes of lectures delivered to the probationers of the London Hospital, and are therefore necessarily elementary, but they are practical, and easily understood, and contain few of the technical terms which are so perplexing to beginners.

We somewhat doubt the wisdom of giving the advice which occurs in the introductory remarks, and which we quote below, to indiscriminate nurse-readers. At all events it is well that it comes from a medical man.

"When your physician is both an able and an honourable man, it is easy to be loyal, but all physicians are not able, and *some* are not honourable. What then? If he be not honourable, say so to him, and be done with it. But first be sure of your ground, and be ready to prove it to the hilt if necessary; and secondly, say it gently and to him alone. But say it. Lend yourselves to no dishonesty. If he is not able, do your best to carry through the case well, and do not come in contact with such a physician again. But, again, be very sure of your ground. See that it is not your ignorance which is at fault, instead of your physician's want of ability. A little modesty and some careful study will set you right here."

We wonder how many nurses would have the moral courage to adopt the course suggested, even if it appeared an inevitable duty, and also how many members of the medical profession would approve of, and support them, in their action.

The second lecture, which is upon feeding the patient, appears to us to contain excellent practical advice. It emphasizes the necessity for a nurse to have clear principles on foods and feeding.

(1) Because of the intrinsic importance of the matter.

(2) Because it is often left to her.

The lecture on the Blood and Circulation, with some useful elementary facts concerning the pulse, should be useful to probationers wishing to obtain clear and concise information on these important subjects.

We fully endorse Dr. Anderson's advice as to the use of the ball syringe in administering nutrient enemata. He says on no account should this be used. "It is very difficult to keep clean, and there is always a certain amount of force used when an enema is administered by this means." He advocates the use of a glass syringe, with or without a piece of tubing or catheter attached. This is, in our opinion, a much safer and more satisfactory way of administering an enema than is possible with the old fashioned ball syringe.

A list of medicated baths, and the proper methods of administering them, together with directions for peptonising milk and beef-tea, form the appendix to this useful little volume.

It also contains a glossary of technical terms, and is prefaced by a biographical notice of Dr. Anderson, by the late Sir Andrew Clark, Bart.



Our Tasmanian Letter.

DEAR MADAM,—In writing to you I feel as if I were addressing an old friend. Your name has been so familiar to me through the pages of the RECORD, and also from your connection with the Royal British Nurses' Association. First, as to the RECORD: I have been a subscriber from the first. It forms a link between the great nursing world outside, and our small island. That I have not before become a contributor, is due to the fact that the distance is so great, I feel discussions are over before the RECORD reaches me.

I am glad to learn from your paper that you are now aiming at State Registration, as that must be the result of the present attempts at legislation for nurses. Some years ago I tried to form a colonial branch of the Australian Nurses' Association. I visited Sydney and Melbourne to try and interest the matrons of the various hospitals in the subject. I found federation sadly needed in hospital matters. I have not given the matter up, but am watching with interest the evolution of co-operation amongst the matrons in the Australian Colonies. Meantime the tactics of the Royal British Nurses' Association, of which I was *then* a member, have made me pause and wait results. As the Association is now mismanaged, and the money of the nurses is wasted, it is not only doing nothing to raise the status, and help the needy, of our profession, but is simply obstructing the very reform the Association was formed to accomplish, viz., separation of the trained from the untrained, so that the public may know what class of nurse they engage. I trust if the Hon. Officers and their supporters carry their motion, and place asylum attendants on the roll, that every trained hospital nurse will take her name off the list, and go straight for State and Legal Registration.

Now, with regard to nursing in Tasmania. You had an interesting account of the Hobart General Hospital some time ago. The General Hospital, Launceston, contains 125 beds, including two children's wards of six beds each, and there is a staff of 21 nurses.

I enclose copies of our certificate of training, and I think you will be pleased to see that we have embodied many of your ideas with regard to our curriculum of education. The Surgeon-Superintendent and myself lecture to the probationers, and also set the questions, which are submitted to our consulting staff for approval. When the examinations are held the answers are sent to two of the Consulting Surgeons, the marks allotted by these three being averaged.

The practical examination is held in the wards by the Surgeon-Superintendent, myself, and two of our Consulting Surgeons, and consists of all matters connected with nursing. Packing and sponging patients, taking pulses, making beds for spinal cases, poultices, preparing table and instruments for special operations, &c.

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