

If the Register were consulted to choose a Nurse, say for a typhoid case, as all the names would be under the heading of Trained and Registered Nurses, one in ten would perhaps notice M.N. after the names of those who were formerly Asylum Attendants, some, if not all, of those noticing this would think it an additional qualification.

II.—Describe the precautions which should be taken by a Private Nurse to effectually disinfect herself after Nursing an infectious case.

After undertaking an infectious case, a Nurse should disinfect her linen by soaking it in a solution of carbolic acid (1-40) for two hours; it must then be boiled and well exposed to the air.

Outer clothes should be disinfected by hanging them on lines stretched across a room which has been made airtight by pasting brown paper over all crevices in windows, &c., and closing the register of the stove, then place on a pail of water in the middle of the floor an iron pan containing half a pound of sulphur (or more, according to the size of the room) broken into small pieces; light it with a live coal, then, leaving the room immediately, close the door like the windows. Leave undisturbed for twenty-four hours, when the windows should be opened and the clothes well exposed to the air.

If these ways are not possible, all the clothes must be sent to the "oven" provided in most places by the health authorities, where they will be subjected to a heat of 212° to 250° Fahr. for several hours.

The Nurse should disinfect herself by sponging her skin all over with warm carbolic solution (1-40), paying particular attention to her hair, afterwards washing all over with hot water and soap. The nails should be cleaned with solution and a nail brush.

The Nurse should not undertake another case for at least seven days if her last case was diphtheria, fourteen if it was scarlet fever.—MABEL LEAVER.

#### COMMENDED ANSWERS.

I.—What are the three chief objections to the Registration of Asylum Attendants as Trained Nurses?

(a) *The Registration of any specialist as a thoroughly Trained Nurse is wrong, and opposed to the fundamental principles upon which the Royal British Nurses' Association was founded. If Asylum Attendants are registered, fever Nurses, Masseuses, monthly Nurses, &c., may with justice claim registration, and the Association will tacitly acknowledge that a basis of general training is not an essential qualification for the title of Trained Nurse.*

(b) *All incentive to improve is taken from Asylum Attendants, who if they train in a general Hospital cannot obtain any higher status than that already conferred upon them as Registered Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association.*

(c) *The scheme is unjust to fully trained Nurses who have undergone a thorough course of training in order to qualify themselves for the responsibilities they assume, and have paid a registration fee on the understanding that their qualifications should be entered on a register of Trained Nurses:*

II.—Describe the precautions which should be taken by a Private Nurse to effectually disinfect herself after Nursing an infectious case.

A private Nurse attending an infectious case should only take with her such things as are absolutely

essential, and these should all be of washing materials. Her cloak and bonnet should be hung in a different wardrobe from the one which she uses for those things which she wears in the patient's room, and as she only touches them after she has had her bath and put on fresh clothes presumably are not infected; all articles worn in the sick room must be steeped in a solution of 1 in 20 carbolic when discarded, and boiled before they are sent to the laundry.

A Nurse who is attending an infectious case should take the following precautions before leaving the house on every occasion.

(1) She should take a soap and water bath, not forgetting to wash her head also.

(2) She should bathe herself with a solution of 1 in 40 carbolic, or 1 in 4000 perchloride of mercury, and brush her hair and nails with the same solution.

(3) She should put on fresh clothes, and must not forget that this rule applies to her corsets.

If there be not time to observe these precautions daily she must content herself with an airing in the garden.

A Nurse who has been in attendance upon an infectious case should refrain from accepting another case during the incubation period of the disease which she has been nursing.

#### COMMENTS BY THE EDITOR.

In connection with the replies we should like to make the following comments:—

Answers should be written on one side of the paper only.

A margin an inch wide should be left on the left hand side of the paper.

The question should be written at the head of each answer, and its number placed in the margin.

The answer should be broken up into small paragraphs as much as possible, for the sake of clearness.

Several lines should be left before a fresh question is answered, for the same reason.

It is not correct to answer a question by asking others.

Questions should be answered concisely and fully. It is not wise to volunteer information which is not asked for. As an illustration of this may be mentioned the instance of a young man who was asked by his examiner who was the first King of Israel. The candidate replied, "Saul." "Very good," said the examiner, and the candidate, emboldened by his success, added, "who was also called Paul," and—failed.

The suggestion that Asylum Attendants should form an Association of their own, though a good one, cannot be called an objection to registration.

It is waste of carbolic to take a bath in "carbolic water." Carbolic of a definite strength must be used, and never less than 1 in 40.

Most of our correspondents say that a disinfectant should be used first, and then a bath should be taken. This is wrong—for this reason. The skin is naturally greasy, therefore if the disinfectant be used *first* the greasy skin will resist its action. If, however, the grease be first removed by the action of an alkaline agent, in this instance *soap*, the disinfectant is able to penetrate it. Therefore the soap and water bath should always be used first and disinfectant of a definite strength afterwards.

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