

Notice.

WE regret, that owing to pressure on our space, we must defer the consideration of Dr. McCook Weir's Sick and Obstetric Nurses' Bill until next week.

Comments and Replies.

Theatre Nurse.—You should certainly be acquainted with the names of the instruments used at operations, unless they are very unusual ones. A theatre nurse should be able to hand the surgeon any instrument he requires. We presume it is your duty to clean all the instruments in the theatre, and you surely do not do so without finding out their names. Usually probationers are taught the names of instruments as part of their training, but, if this has not been part of your education, you can easily instruct yourself by studying one of the many illustrated catalogues, such as those of Messrs. Down Bros., or Messrs. Maw, Son, & Thompson. Examiners of nurses often have instruments before them when conducting *viva voce* examinations, and require candidates to name them, a very necessary and practical part of the examination. Now is the time for you to learn, as when you are certificated, and enter upon private nursing, it will neither be to your credit nor that of your training school if you are unacquainted with the names of instruments in ordinary use.

Disappointed, London.—We are sorry for your disappointment, but no doubt your matron's decision is a wise one, and you will probably come to recognize the fact that in telling you you are unsuitable for nursing she is acting with a true regard for your interests. It is much better that you should learn at this stage that your talents do not lie in the direction of nursing, than that you should go on to the end of your training and then find that you have mistaken your vocation.

Miss E. F., Belper.—We should advise you to ascertain

with regard to any hospital which you may enter whether systematic instruction is given to the probationers, and whether their knowledge is tested by examination before a certificate is given. A certificate given merely as a guarantee that a nurse has passed a certain number of years in an institution cannot have the same value as one which is bestowed only after careful examination into the knowledge of the probationer. A merely theoretical examination is not, in our opinion, a sufficient test. All examinations, to be really satisfactory, should be conducted, in part, in practical nursing by the matron of the training school. A certain number of marks should always be given by the matron for practical work and general conduct during the whole period of training. The marks so given are recorded by the matron, and are based upon the reports which she receives from the ward sisters as well as upon her own personal observations of the probationer.

Peplexed, London.—The cook problem is one of the most difficult which presents itself to a matron for satisfactory solution. Where the cooking is done by steam the difficulty is increased, as the number of cooks who understand this is limited. It is well, if possible, to select one who has had previous experience in a public institution, as one who has been excellent in a smaller establishment often fails when she has to cook for a large number. What is needed is an early riser, methodical, sober, steady; one capable of keeping kitchen and scullery maids to their work, and of putting down her foot with respect to flirtations with the porters. She must also be scrupulously clean in her person and her work, economical, punctual, and careful of hospital property, notably of the gas. She must be able to satisfy the exactions of the resident medical officers, and to serve to the minute some eight or nine meals a day, beginning with the day nurses' breakfast at 6.45 a.m. Such a cook, when found, is cheap at thirty pounds a year; but these treasures do not grow on every bush. We are sorry for your difficulties.

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