

Comments and Replies.

"*A Lover of Justice, Bombay.*"—As you have adopted the extraordinary procedure of criticising the accuracy of information in the *Nursing Record* in a partizan publication, before giving us the opportunity of dealing with the matter, we decline to insert your letter.

"*Parsee Bombay.*"—We never insert anonymous contributions; and English women are not to be intimidated by personal abuse.

E. W.—Miss Humphreys' lectures on Maternity Nursing are published in book form in two volumes; they may be obtained from Messrs. Sampson, Low and Marston, and are excellent. Unfortunately the price is not mentioned. Barnes' Manual of Midwifery, is the text book commonly used by candidates for the L.O.S. examination, but we think you will find some of it, at least, difficult to understand, unless you have some practical instruction and experience in midwifery. Dr. Billroth's book is also published by Messrs. Sampson, Low, Marston and Company, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, E.C., price 2s. 6d., and would we think be very useful to you. "Nursing, its Principles and Practice," by Mrs. Hampton Robb, published by the Scientific Press, is an admirable book, and deserves to be widely known. Mrs. Hampton Robb was, as Miss Isabel Hampton, Superintendent of Nurses, and Principal of the Training School for Nurses, of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, and her book is the outcome of a wide and practical acquaintance with nursing matters.

Provincial Matron.—The papers to be read at the Annual Conference of the Matrons' Council have now all been promised, but questions of interest can be brought forward and discussed on the afternoon of either day. An hour on each afternoon has been specially reserved for such informal

discussion, and the questions already suggested should prove interesting. Questions placed on the Agenda will take precedence. We are glad you are coming up. The response with regard to the Conference has been very gratifying.

Mrs. P., Leamington.—The question is one of some difficulty. We propose to deal with it fully in the *Nursing Record* shortly.

An Anxious Mother.—Your experience has been a most unfortunate one. Why not obtain a copy of the *Nursing Directory*, published under the authority of the Matrons' Council, and obtainable at the offices of the *Nursing Record*, 11, Adam Street, Strand, price Five Shillings. This would give you much information as to the qualifications of nurses, and if you made a point of engaging only nurses whose names are found in it you would not be defrauded by paying the price commanded by skilled labour for ignorant services.

Probationer, Oxford.—Would it not be possible to you to devote half an hour, daily, to reading, and writing up notes on lectures? In these days of shortened hours on duty there are few nurses who cannot devote this amount of time to study, and it is astonishing how much may be learnt by pursuing a systematic plan of this sort.

Staff Nurse, Edinburgh.—A hypodermic needle is prepared for use by boiling it in a 1 per cent. soda solution. After being so prepared it should not be touched except with a piece of sterilized gauze, with which it may be held while attaching it to the syringe. Both the needle and the solution injected must be absolutely sterile if the injection is to be devoid of danger to the patient. The plan of passing the needle through an alcohol flame is sometimes advocated, but the drawback of this method of sterilization is that the point of the needle is somewhat blunted, and consequently the patient suffers more pain from its insertion.

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