

Comments and Replies.

W. M. H., Chippenham.—We do not consider the verses quite suitable for the RECORD. Many thanks for submitting them all the same.

Novice, Birkenhead.—Various kinds of material are used as ligatures and sutures, the most usual being silk, silkworm gut, silver wire, horsehair, and catgut. In days gone by the ends of silk ligatures used to be left long, and secured outside the wound, and finally removed, but now, even for deep-seated ligatures, silk is more frequently used than any other material, cut off short, and the wound closed without any fear of subsequent mischief. If the silk ligatures are aseptic, they are found to be absolutely non-irritating, and they eventually become encapsuled. Catgut ligatures have the advantage, being composed of animal material, of becoming absorbed, but in practice they are not so satisfactory as silk, and have of late been much discarded. Silver wire and silkworm gut are most frequently used for the deep stitches in cases of ruptured perineum. The silkworm gut has the disadvantage of being liable to cut its way out. Horsehair is sometimes used for superficial stitches. Ligatures and sutures are used of the same material, but ligatures, as the name implies, are used for tying, and sutures for sewing. Ligatures should be cut in about eight inch, and sutures in fourteen inch lengths. The needles usually used are those known as surgical needles, either straight, or curved at the end, Hag-dorn's needles, which are semi-circular in shape, and those on handles, like the ordinary aneurism needle, but pointed instead of blunt at the end. Needle holders of various patterns are sometimes used, but are not usually very satisfactory.

Nurse B., Nottingham.—Many members of the nursing profession are of the same opinion. We shall be glad to hear from you again on the subject.

Miss E. P., Barnet.—We are always glad to answer questions on subjects of professional interest, and to give

advice to our readers in this column. Your question touches upon a very real difficulty, and we propose to deal with it fully in a later issue.

Inquirer, Newcastle.—You would not be likely to obtain work in connection with a nurses co-operation of any standing if you do not hold the certificate of a training school requiring a three years' curriculum. We should advise you to gain this before you attempt private nursing.

Certificated Nurse, Hartlepool.—Good district nurses are often required, but the remuneration offered is usually very small. District nurses are best off when they live, as the Queen's Jubilee Nurses do, in a Central Home, and have a fixed salary. This is far more comfortable also for a nurse than living alone in second-rate lodgings, which as a rule are all that she can afford, and being worried with housekeeping details when she comes in tired from her work. The question as to whether the daily chop shall be grilled, or fried, or made into Irish stew becomes irritating after a time. The ways in which the matutinal egg may be served are more various, but even these become monotonous year in year out.

Mrs. T., Liverpool.—You can best further the attainment of legal registration of trained nurses by bringing the need for it before any Members of Parliament with whom you are acquainted. We are much obliged to you for your kind letter, and are glad that you appreciate the NURSING RECORD.

Certificated Nurse, Lancaster.—You will be wise to supplement your general training with some special work, before entering on a career as a private nurse. We should advise you to apply for a while for a post as charge nurse in the scarlet fever wards of one of the hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and also to obtain the diploma of the London Obstetrical Society. We hope there are no general hospitals which now admit scarlet fever and diphtheria cases into their general wards. It is true that, with care, these diseases seldom spread, but, in our opinion, it is unjustifiable to expose patients to the possibility of catching these diseases.

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