

Notices.

In consequence of innumerable complaints, we would advise our readers in provincial towns to order their NURSING RECORD through Messrs. Smith & Son's Bookstall at the Railway Station. In case they have any difficulty in obtaining it in this manner each week, we shall be glad if they will write a post card to the Manager, at our Offices.

Copies of the NURSING RECORD are always on sale at 269 Regent Street, price 1d. As this address is close to Oxford Circus, it will be found a Central Depot.

Comments and Replies.

A Soldier's Mother.—The value of the services of trained nurses in time of war has been amply proved during the late Hispano-American war, when the Government after proving the inadequacy of the nursing arrangements in the hands of the Hospital corps, supplemented by male nurses, accepted the services of women with the best results. It is obvious however that a nursing corps for service in time of war should be organised in peace. The selection of nurses should not be left until the time when their services are required. This necessitates a certain amount of delay in despatching them, as well as a hurried investigation of testimonials, with the consequent danger of mistakes in selection. It is to be hoped that the experience of the American government in the recent war will lead to the formation of a permanent Army Nursing Service in the United States. The fact that when the services of women nurses were utilized, a committee of competent women were appointed by the American Government to select them, is the best possible augury that the organization of a permanent service would be arranged on wise lines.

Ward Sister.—There can be no doubt whatever that a

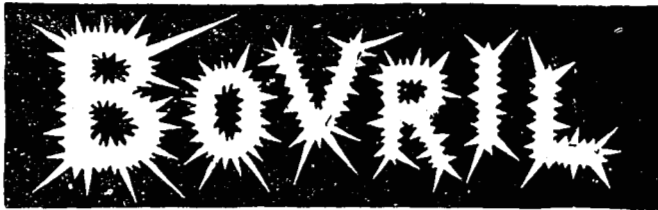
probationer should never be left alone with a case of tracheotomy, unless an experienced nurse is within easy call. The suddenness with which urgent symptoms sometimes occur, more especially when the operation has been performed for diphtheria is appalling, and taxes even the resource of a highly trained woman. A diphtheritic patient should always be kept in the horizontal position unless leave is specially given by the medical attendant for the patient to sit up in bed. Heart failure must always be remembered as a possible, and not unfrequent, cause of death in cases of diphtheria.

Theatre Nurse.—In an operation room there should always be a tray on which are placed brandy, a small glass jug of water, and a medicine glass, a hypodermic syringe and needle, which have been boiled, and ether and strychnine for hypodermic injection. It is always necessary for the nurse in charge of the room to inspect the syringe, and see that the piston is in working order shortly before the operation, otherwise when it is wanted in an emergency, it may be found to be useless owing to the washer having become dry, and consequently shrunken. When this is the case, it should be soaked in sterilized water.

S. Rugby.—Your first question is answered in our Medical Matters this week. The charges you mention can probably be easily explained. The anaesthetist was probably more successful, and his time therefore more valuable, in 1898 than in 1892; and £2 2s. is quite an ordinary fee for such services.

Doubtful.—Highly polished floors are very preferable to scrubbed boards for hospital floors, but there must be no crevices between the boards, otherwise a nest for germs is at once provided.

Matron.—There is no doubt that the elimination of enteric fever and diphtheria to a great extent from the wards of general hospitals, entails the loss of much valuable experience to nurses, and we believe that it will be found increasingly necessary for them to supplement their general education by a period of training in a fever hospital.



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