

Notices.

Will our readers kindly notice that communications for insertion in the current number of the NURSING RECORD should reach the editorial Office, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W., if possible, not later than Wednesday morning. We receive much interesting matter just after we have gone to press which, if sent a few posts earlier, could be inserted, but is stale a week later.

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 Laywoman.—We cannot approve of registering three-months' midwives, because we consider this amount of training quite inadequate to fit them for the responsible work which they have to perform. In this short time they have to be taught not only such elementary nursing duties

as taking temperatures and pulses, washing patients, bed-making, etc., but also the detailed anatomy of the pelvis; then also they must be taught the mechanism of labour in its varied forms, and further the diagnosis of the various presentations, and how to deal efficiently with the exigencies which occur as a rule with alarming suddenness. To this knowledge must be added the care of the newly born infant and the best methods of washing, dressing, and feeding it. All the special knowledge thus required taxes the capacity of the certificated nurse to attain in three months, and it is small wonder that a woman who has to learn the A B C of nursing in this time is bewildered by all that is required of her. In our opinion a midwifery education should be an additional qualification of a trained nurse. The day for educating specialists in one branch only, without a basis of general knowledge, has surely passed.

Assistant Nurse.—The objects to be attained by the application of splints are, to prevent movement, to secure perfect rest for the injured part, to remedy faulty union. Points to be noted in their application are that they must not press unequally anywhere, or sores, known as splint sores, may ensue, the bandage which holds a splint in position must not be applied so that it obstructs the return of the venous blood from the limb below, or causes circular constriction. In the case of a compound fracture, the splint must be so adjusted that the wound can be readily dressed.

Miss Palmer.—We cannot advise your training in any hospital which gives only a two years' certificate. The question to be considered is, not how soon you can get a certificate, but what value it will be to you when you have got it. With a two years certificate you would be ineligible for posts in the Navy, Army, and Indian Army Nursing Services, for the position of Superintendent Nurse under the Poor Law, and for the position of Charge Nurse under the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and, of course, also for the position of Ward Sister in almost every hospital of standing.

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STANLEY SMITH, *Secretary.*

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