

Notices.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page VIII.

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 the NURSING RECORD Office 11, Adam Street, Strand, W.C.

Comments and Replies.

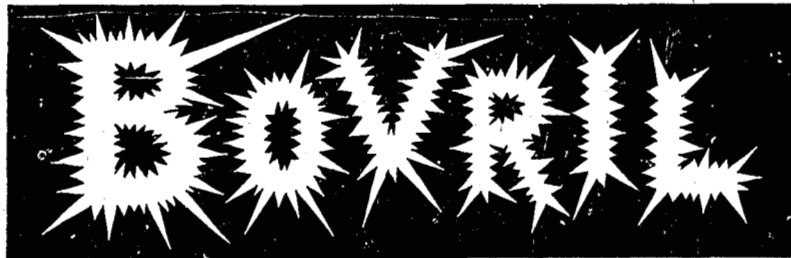
Matron, Birmingham.—The Matrons' Council was founded in 1894, as the need of a Society in which Superintendents of Training Schools, and of Nurses could confer and take counsel together upon matters affecting their profession was making itself increasingly felt. The life of a Matron who has no opportunity of meeting her colleagues is in many ways an isolated one, and the Council has afforded this opportunity. That it has met a need is proved by the steady accession of members to its ranks. That it has had its influence upon nursing organization, and in more than one instance has been instrumental in placing the views of trained nurses before Government Departments dealing with the nursing of the sick, its quarterly reports afford proof. The present is an age of co-operation, and we must either co-operate with one another to obtain what is just and right for our profession, or stand aside while others do so, who possess a greater sense of their public responsibilities.

Charge Nurse, Leicester.—A "tie-down" for a child with hip disease is satisfactory and comfortable if made of Turkey twill. Two circles for the arms, about two inches wide, should first be made, and then a strap of the same width to unite the two should be measured on the child so that it fits comfortably across the chest. A band of webbing is then passed under the little patient, through each of the circlelets on the arms, underneath the cot, and fastened at one side. This keeps the child quite flat, while at the same time causing the minimum amount of restriction.

Maternity Nurse.—We do not consider that three months' special training is sufficient to qualify a woman for undertaking the most responsible duties of a midwife. True, the whole of the period is devoted to the study of this special work, but, after all, what is three months? In this time she has to learn the most elementary nursing duties, how to make a bed, to wash a mother and infant, to take pulse and temperature, to give a vaginal douche. Then she must learn the elementary laws of hygiene, a certain amount of general anatomy, and very detailed anatomy of the pelvis. She must know how to diagnose all the different positions of the child in the various normal presentations, which includes the recognition of, and the capacity to deliver safely, in the case of a pelvic presentation. She must acquaint herself with the conditions under which medical assistance should be sent for, and what to do in such cases, often most alarming and urgent, such as in placenta prævia, until the doctor arrives. What three months' probationer in a general hospital, however promising, would be entrusted with the sole responsibility of nursing a case without supervision at the end of three months? And it must be remembered that a midwife's work is not that of nursing under medical direction, which is responsible enough, but she has the responsibility of diagnosis, and of the conduct of the case from start to finish.

Don't take chances! Keep on using

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STANLEY SMITH, Secretary.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)