

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.

Miss M. Burr.—The book is published by Messrs. W. B. Saunders, 925, Walnut Street, Philadelphia, but we think you would probably obtain it in this country through Messrs. Putnam, 24, Bedford Street, Strand.

Sister S., London.—The Medico-Legal Examination of Blood Stains needs the most expert skill. Preliminary examination consists in observation of the color, the exact form, the position, and the dryness or moisture of the stain. The systematic examination includes three methods—the chemical tests, the optical method, and the microscopic examination for the detection of the red blood cells. The guaiacum test is chiefly valuable as a preliminary test, and as a negative test; for while other substances give the blue coloration, if no such reaction be obtained, we know that blood is not present. The hæmin test of blood crystals should be used to confirm the guaiacum test. The sodium tungstate test is of great value in cases of washed blood

stains, or when a liquid has to be tested for blood. The spectroscopic test requires a considerable volume of blood to deal with. For the new agglutination test it is claimed that it renders it possible to distinguish accurately between human blood and that of other animals.

A Perplexed Midwife.—According to the definition at present usually accepted, normal labour is understood to mean any labour, not otherwise complicated, in which the long diameter of the child coincides with the long diameter of the mother. Pelvic presentations are therefore at present regarded as normal, and as such are delivered by midwives, who are required by examining bodies to give evidence that they understand both the mechanism of labour and the practical management of these cases. In the present Bill it is provided that a midwife shall send for medical assistance in all cases where the vertex of the child does not present. We consider this a wise provision, but it is one which must be carefully noted by midwives at present practising, if the Bill becomes law, as, if they follow their present custom in relation to these cases, they will find that they come under its penal clauses. Every midwife should obtain a copy of the Bill now before Parliament, and study it carefully.

Country Matron.—We do not consider it desirable to raise the standard of general hospital training and certification beyond three years. After this has been passed through a nurse has still much to learn, and may profitably spend the next two years in gaining experience in obstetric nursing, fever nursing (including diphtheria), the special nursing of eye and ear diseases, and, if she has any ambition to become a superintendent of nurses, in general administrative work and domestic management. General hospitals are increasingly being devoted to the treatment of general cases of medical and surgical diseases, while enteric fever, and diphtheria are sent to the fever hospitals where they more properly belong. At the same time a nurse who has no knowledge of the nursing of these diseases has not had some of the best experience attainable.

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is recommended by doctors.

THE REGISTERED NURSES' SOCIETY.

(THE FIRST CO-OPERATION OF CHARTERED NURSES.)

269, REGENT STREET, LONDON, W.

Telegraphic Address—"SOROR, LONDON." Telephone No. 1712 Gerrard.

This Society supplies to the Public thoroughly competent Nurses, each one of whom has passed through three years of Hospital Training and has been Registered after full enquiry into her character and capacity.

The Nurses obtain their full fees less 7½ per cent to cover working expenses.

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