

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.

Country Matron.—We are of opinion that every Matron should keep a diary of daily events, in which she should note every occurrence of interest or importance in her own department, changes in the personnel, and the movements of the nursing staff, the dates of lectures examinations, etc. This will be most useful to her in preparing her weekly report for the Committee, and in compiling her register showing the training each probationer has received, which should be kept posted up quarterly.

Mater Familias.—The age at which girls should be admitted to hospitals as probationers is a point upon which there is still a difference of opinion amongst the heads of training schools. Years ago 27 and 28 were often fixed as the minimum age for admission, but as nursing education has become better organised, and the nurses' homes of hospitals become in fact what they are in name,

the tendency has been to reduce the age qualification. Rightly, surely, for the best working years of a woman's life are those between 20 and 30. The point now at issue really is, whether she shall be admitted to a hospital as soon as her education is complete, or whether several years should elapse, so that she has attained the age of 21 or 23 before admission. Those in favour of the former standard argue that women medical students begin their studies at 18, and if students why not nurses, that many girls cannot afford to live at home from 18 to 23, but must begin to work on leaving school. Those in favour of the later age urge that the hard physical work entailed in nursing cannot be compared with the studies of medical students, that women are not fully developed till they are over 21, and that it is prejudicial to their health to begin nursing so early in life; moreover, that a nurse's sphere is a narrow one, and that she should see something of the world before entering upon it. There is much to be said for both points of view. We are of opinion that after leaving school several years might usefully be spent in special study which would subsequently be useful to the probationer in her work in the wards.

Mrs. Saller.—We sympathize with you in your unfortunate experience. The only way in which the public can at present safeguard themselves is by obtaining their nurses from institutions of known repute. Such an experience affords an object lesson in the need for State Registration, so that an employer may see at a glance by consulting the register whether a nurse has had the training she professes to have received or not.

Nurse C., Buxton.—We do not advise you to accept any appointment abroad without the fullest enquiry, or without having a definite agreement in writing of the terms of the engagement.

Nurse Saunders.—You should acquaint your Matron with the facts of the case, and leave the decision to her.

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STANLEY SMITH, *Secretary.*

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