

Miss Wood, Ballinhassig, co. Cork, Ireland.
 Miss Clara Allee, 98, Alma Road, The Avenue,
 Southampton.
 Miss K. Hardy, Miners' Hospital, Marske-by-the-
 Sea, Yorkshire.
 Miss Annie Pope, Dysart Terrace, Newtown, Mont-
 gomeryshire.
 Nurse Dingle, Tallerman Institute, Poole, Dorset.
 Miss Winifred Wallis, Bagthorpe Infirmary, Not-
 tingham.

Several competitors have gone wrong over "Garrould's Red Cross Washing Cotton." Some suggest "Garrould's Red Cross Catalogue," and others "Garrould's Registered Washing Tikord."

One competitor, in giving the correct solution to Puzzle No. 3, "King's Cooked Oatmeal," adds "*which is very good, I have tried it.*"

The new set of Prize Puzzles will be found on page viii.

The rules remain the same.

The Nursing of the Sick Poor in Workhouses.

The report of the Departmental Committee of the Local Government Board on the Nursing of the Sick Poor in Workhouses still continues to attract considerable attention, and amongst the memorials which have been addressed to the President of the Board is one from the National Association of Workhouse Masters and Matrons. This memorial contends that "the position of superintendent nurse ought to have its limitations as well as its responsibilities, and such limitations should commence as soon as general administrative functions are reached. Matrons are not wishful to secure ease by shirking responsibilities, neither are they anxious to be shut out from the higher duties of their office, until much better cause is shown than the Committee's report seems to indicate." We have always maintained that a divided authority is not conducive to good discipline, and therefore, that in a workhouse, where the sick wards are not separated from the house the Matron who is appointed as the head of the female staff should be accorded the position due to her. Only it should be remembered, on the other hand, that workhouse Matrons should be appointed, not because they are the wives of the Masters, but because of their qualifications for the work they undertake, and it follows that if their duties include a general supervision of sick wards, then they should be selected from the ranks of trained nurses.

Until this is realised by the Local Government Board it will never get at the root of the present trouble.

Poisons.

By Miss E. L. B. FORSTER,
 Analyst to the Morgan Crucible Co.

TABLE No. 2.

ORGANIC.

Opium, and all Preparations of Opium or of Poppies.

Opium is the juice obtained from the unripe capsules of *Papaver somniferum*. It is dried by spontaneous evaporation. There are various kinds of opium—Smyrna, Persian, Egyptian, East Indian, and others; the Smyrna is the best.

The method of collecting the opium is different in each country. In some parts they prick holes in the poppy capsules, in others they cut incisions in various directions; through these openings the juice flows, is scraped off and allowed to dry.

In whatever way collected, great care has to be exercised that the incisions do not go through the pericarp, else the juice would flow inside and be lost; also the seeds would be prevented from ripening—and the seeds go largely to pay for the expense of cultivating the poppy, they contain so much oil. The appearance of opium differs according to where it is obtained from. It is very usual to wrap a poppy leaf around it. The Smyrna opium is wrapped in a leaf with a very thick midrib. The opium is in lumps of a dark brown colour, with a characteristic odour. All forms of opium have this odour. The Egyptian is generally seen in flat cakes; the Persian is very sticky-looking; the East Indian is in flat, hard cakes, not wrapped in a leaf. It is not often met with in England. It is sent in large quantities to China.

The British Pharmacopœia will recognise opium from any country, providing it contains the right amount of morphine. What is used when opium is ordered must contain not less than $9\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. or more than $10\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

For the preparation of the tincture and extract of opium it must contain not less than $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of morphine. Opium contains, in addition to morphine, several other substances. The alkaloids are mostly in combination with meconic acid as meconates. Codeia is found in various different quantities, sometimes only a minute amount, but in some samples as much as .5 per cent. has been obtained.

Narc-ina is also found in small quantities. Thebaine, papaverine, narcotine, meconine, and rhœadine are present, but the quantity of the alkaloid varies greatly according to which form of opium is examined. Meconic acid is present, also lactic acid, and several other active principles of little importance.

The extraction of morphine was treated under that subject. To obtain codeia, the solution from the morphine must be evaporated down and treated

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