

the training-schools, and indeed of all hospitals, are excluded from electing their own representatives. Medical and nursing associations may nominate medical men, midwives may nominate medical men, medical men may nominate nurses, the Privy Council may nominate lay persons, the lay hospital committees may nominate Matrons, the nurses in the three kingdoms (80,000, according to the last census) may, with restrictions, elect six out of the thirty members of the Board, but the poor unfortunate Matrons have no direct representation of their interests at all.

Surely, this is carrying the "smashing up the Matrons"—the old R.B.N.A. policy—a little too far. Surely the Matrons realise what this means to them in the future, for, as nominees of hospital committees, they are not free agents, and they would take their seats on the Board, not as representing professional interests, but as lay nominees. We know how difficult it is for Matrons to enforce discipline in hospitals in these days; this system would place them in a most false position, and in time bring registered nurses to regard them as their natural enemies, instead of as trusted friends. In fact, it places Matrons between "the devil and the deep sea." It is to be hoped that the Matrons' Council will make this quite plain to our legislators, and all those who feel with me should see, or write to, the Member of Parliament in the locality in which they live.

Yours very truly,

A FEVER HOSPITAL MATRON.

HOSPITAL SMUGGLING.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—I see statements made in the daily Press that hospital smuggling is still one of the dangers of visiting day. How is it to be prevented? For an hour or two hours on a certain day patients' friends pour into the ward. There is usually only one nurse on duty; Sister is, if on duty, in her sitting-room, and, with the utmost vigilance, it is easy for women under their cloaks to hide little bottles of drugs or drink, and push indigestible snacks of food into the bed, where it remains till the nurse's back is turned, when it is demolished.

All parcels are searched; lockers may be turned out; but the patient who means to defy the authorities in eating and drinking smuggled articles can often do so. Of course, the result of such folly is often additional suffering, and the nurse is always blamed for lack of observation; but unless one has the right to rifle pockets, and has eyes all round one's head like a chandelier, I don't know how one can always prevent the breaking of the rule that "no food, drink, or drugs" shall be brought in by patients' friends. The poor things cannot realise the danger of their act.—

Yours sincerely,

A STAFF NURSE.

THEATRE LEAVE.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—I have read "Matron's" letter through carefully and with much interest, and I think it very sensible indeed. There is not a single thought in it to which any right-minded person can take exception. My plan is generally to say to people who crave so much for pleasure, "Take it out of your work, and you will always be enjoying it." Of all the occupations that ladies—or, if the matter be so, gentlemen—can seek, there is none so calculated to reward in the

performance as that of nursing. To do it well is its own reward; but to do it well the heart must be in it, and this is the source of pleasure. Ah, but it is arduous! Yes, so. This is also true of theatre-going. The one will take it out of you just as much as the other. It is a question, therefore, as to which has our claims. This is soon set at rest. Duty has the first claim. Ay, and there is an end of it. And so to it, and in it, "a ministering angel, thou!"

Yours, &c.

J. P. SANDLANDS.

Brigstock Vicarage, Thrapston.

OUR GUINEA PRIZE.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—With grateful thanks I beg to acknowledge receipt of your cheque for 21s. in respect of December's prize competition.

Anything I can do to promote the welfare of your journal is most cheerfully rendered.

Again thanking you,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN DAVIS.

Comments and Replies.

Enquirer.—"It is the duty of the nursing profession of every country to work for suitable legislative enactments regulating the education of nurses." So agreed the International Congress at Buffalo, and so we maintain. Registration is now looming largely on the horizon, and every nurse worthy of her calling should study the question in all its bearings and join the Society formed to gain this reform.

Miss F., Co. Down.—We shall be pleased to supply as many forms of application for membership of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses as you can utilise. The best way in which members can advance the interests of the Society is by getting supporters of the movement to join it.

Mrs. Wilkinson.—There are now six Leagues in existence in this country, and no doubt they will go on increasing and prospering, for they are founded in the belief that the former and present graduates of a training-school like to meet not only for social purposes but for professional interchange of thought. The cordiality with which the formation of the present Leagues has been received is the best augury for the development of the movement. It evidently commends itself to British nurses.

Monthly Nurse.—The Allenburys' Foods are supplied in three different preparations. The first, a milk food, is designed for infants from birth to three months of age; the second, also a milk food, from three to six months; and the third, a malted food, from six months old and upwards. Farinaceous foods are quite unsuited for infants under six months of age, as the digestive powers are not sufficiently developed to assimilate them.

Notices.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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