

large number of women working as private nurses have passed through no such training, and then both knowledge and personality often leave much to be desired. Personally, in private work, in common I suppose with most thoroughly-trained nurses, I make it a rule never to consider any work "menial" which contributes to the comfort of the patient, but often, of course, it is quite impossible to leave him, and then one must be waited on. Under these circumstances I try to remember to ask at the same time for things I am likely to want, and have them placed at hand just outside the patient's room, so as not to be constantly ringing the bells and requiring attention from all the maids. Then, again, if a patient is well enough to be left alone, and a friend comes in, one should slip away, remaining within easy call. One so often hears it said, "Nurse was very good, but I never had a moment to myself; she was always in the room." It is easy to avoid mistakes of this nature if one tries to put oneself in the patient's place, and to consider what one would like oneself under similar circumstances. A little imagination does help one over so much.

I think it would be an excellent thing if all nurses spent some time in a well-managed nursing home after their hospital training before beginning work in private houses. Ward training does not teach one many of the things which it is essential a private nurse should know, and which hard experience, after some failures, teaches her as a rule. Indeed, I think this holds good of all special branches of nursing. It is sometimes said that the hospital nurse does not make a good district nurse, and it is, therefore, argued that partially-trained women should be employed. The remedy is, rather, give the hospital nurse a little more training—that is to say, supervise her district work for a while, teach her its special difficulties and their remedies, and these complaints will vanish. I have never heard it said that the Jubilee nurses are not a success; on the contrary, they are appreciated wherever they go, and the reason, it appears to me, is this, that to their efficient hospital training they add a special training in the branch to which they have decided to devote themselves. It seems to me this is only reasonable in whatever branch we elect to take up. Begging you to excuse the length of this letter,

I am, dear Madam, Yours faithfully,
CERTIFICATED NURSE.

DISTRICT NURSING.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have read with great interest the able paper by Miss Guthrie Wright on District Nursing as a Hygienic Agency. As a nurse who has had some experience in this kind of work, I have no hesitation in saying that it appears to me to need a higher type of woman than any other branch, though, perhaps, we are all somewhat inclined to think that of the branch in which we are specially interested. What I mean is this, that a woman drawn from the same class as the patients whom she attends can never influence them and improve their standard of life as a woman of education does, and this even supposing that her training as a nurse has removed some of the prejudices which she formerly shared with her patients. The reason mainly is, I think, that the work of the district nurse does not consist simply, or even principally, of making the patient comfortable, but her office

as a teacher of hygiene is quite as important. The gift of imparting to others the knowledge one possesses is not a very common one, and is certainly found most developed in the educated classes. In regard to the desirability of a nurse who will undertake all the housework, cooking, care of the children, household washing, &c., when the mother is ill (it is always the mother who is the patient, I notice, in the estimation of those who advocate this plan), I should be sorry to nurse any patient with hands in the condition this work would produce. A competent woman can almost invariably be found to undertake these duties, and this is surely the most suitable arrangement. It is much easier to infect one's hands than to get them surgically clean, after cleaning a dirty cottage; and, further, a roughened hand is at all times an unsafe hand for nursing purposes.

Yours obediently,
A PRACTICAL PERSON.

Comments and Replies.

Provincial Nurse.—Apply to the Secretary of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, the Embankment, London, E.C. You would not be eligible for appointment as a Charge Nurse in one of the Board's hospitals, as you have not a three years' certificate of training, but you would get good experience as a First Assistant Nurse. All nurses should know something of the care of infectious cases.

Private Nurse.—Messrs. Garroud, 150, Edgware Road, Hyde Park, London, W., would send you their Red Cross Catalogue on application. It is profusely illustrated, and you would be able to make a selection of what you require by consulting it, and to order the goods sent by post.

Ward Sister, Sheffield.—You are eligible for membership of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. You will find an application form each week in this journal. Should you require more, they are obtainable on application to the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Annual Report, 1903-04, is now ready. All those interested in the efficient organisation of nursing should procure it from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Six copies, post free, 7d., or one copy 1½d. Gives brief review of the history of State Registration of Nurses.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Editor will at all times be pleased to consider articles of a suitable nature for insertion in this journal—those on practical nursing are specially invited. The Editor will also be pleased to receive paragraphs, such as items of nursing news, results of nurses' examinations, new appointments, reports of hospital functions, also letters on questions of interest to nurses, and newspapers marked with reports of matters of professional interest.

Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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