

which we are at so much pains to exclude from the wounds of our patients. Is this right or logical?

I do not wish to be understood as underrating the value to a nurse of a thorough knowledge of the methods of domestic cleaning, or the value to a hospital of its performance by women with some knowledge of its importance, but it does appear to me that, in the light of our present knowledge, the duties of nurses should be readjusted. Surely one set of nurses for a certain time should be responsible for the ward cleanliness, nor should this service be regarded merely as domestic drudgery to be got through as soon as possible, in order that they may pass on to more interesting work. I would have them regard this duty as one of the most important they can perform, and realise that any failure in its conscientious discharge must mean peril to the patients.

Then the nurses who attend to the surgical dressings should be solely employed in that work, and should not alternate it with routing microbes.

The two sets of nurses might change duty periodically, proving that both services were regarded as equally honourable.

I do not underrate the use or the value of soap and water. I certainly do not underestimate the length of time for which it must be used if it is to be effective in cleansing soiled hands from noxious matter, but it seems to me senseless to be continually soiling one's hands and then spending a considerable time getting rid of the dangerous dirt upon them.

Perhaps I shall be considered visionary and impracticable, but surely the views I have advanced are based on common-sense principles.

Yours faithfully,

A SURGICAL SISTER.

LACK OF DISCIPLINE IN WOMEN.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The community at large owes the nurse-training schools a greater debt of gratitude than it apparently realises. I allude to the fact that it is only in hospitals that girls are subjected to good, firm discipline, which helps to make women of them. It is therefore to be hoped that the latter-day agitation "to go as you please" will never result in discipline being relaxed in nursing schools. Compare the average nurse with the girls trained for other professions. All the latter are usually taught technical stuff, which in no way affects their characters, and what poor things the majority of them are—feckless and pleasure-loving, lacking in courtesy, and opinionated to an absurd degree. All human beings need to learn self-control, and it is just the wholesome discipline in hospitals which makes a well-trained nurse so well fitted to fight the battle of life. I hold an official position where clerks and other girls are engaged, and suffer greatly from their lack of order and good manners.—Yours,

A STORC.

COTTAGE HOSPITALS AS PREPARATORY SCHOOLS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The suggestion that cottage hospitals should be utilised as preparatory nursing schools for the larger hospitals might be feasible if their staffs were increased, but not on the lines on which they are, as a rule, run at present. So many committees seem

to think that if they build a hospital of ten beds, all they have to do is to provide a person whom they call a Matron, provide her with a raw probationer, and that the two form an amply sufficient nursing staff. The Matron thus has to be housekeeper, day nurse, night nurse, theatre nurse, and sometimes cook, rolled into one. I leave your readers to decide how much time she has to teach the probationer.—Yours obediently,

AN OVERWORKED WOMAN.

Comments and Replies.

Miss Saunders, Battle.—We know of no hospital giving a year's training in midwifery. The course of training is as a rule from three to six months, for which a fee varying from £10 10s. to £26 5s. is charged. We should advise you to write to the Association for Promoting the Training of Midwives, Mace House, New Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W.

Miss Couzens, Ilford.—The only way to make a connection is to get the support of the doctors of the neighbourhood. We should suggest your calling on the medical practitioners and ministers in your vicinity, drawing their attention to the home and to your own qualifications, and inviting their support. You should also supply them with cards bearing the address of the home and the terms charged, as these details are easily forgotten by busy practitioners.

Maternity Nurse.—We expect you mean Milo Food, which was recently noticed in these columns. It is supplied by Henri Nestlé, 48, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Colonial Nurse.—The BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, the *American Journal of Nursing*, the *Australasian Nurses' Journal*, and *Una*, the organ of the Victorian Nurses' Association, all support the principle of State Registration for Nurses. It is a significant fact that wherever nurses have a voice in the policy of their professional journals these organs support State Registration. We see this plainly in the League journals in this country, of which there are now quite a goodly crop.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

All those desirous of helping on the important movement of this Society to obtain a Bill providing for the legal registration of trained nurses will find an application form on page iii. of the cover of this journal, or can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Secretary, 43¹, Oxford Street, London, W.

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 Practical Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page xii.

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