

POST-GRADUATE TRAINING FOR NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—No one will deny that nurses want keeping up to date in their professional knowledge, but that, after being thoroughly well-trained, one relapses into a "Gamp" after a few years' private nursing seems to me to exaggerate the situation. Good practical nursing is based on fundamental principles. These once learnt, a nurse should become more and more skilled by practice—and she does. Methods of treatment are another thing, and, as a nurse of twenty years' standing, I have seen systems of treatment come and go, and do not feel any the worse for not having been trained to apply them all. First, rule of thumb, then antiseptics, then asepsis, which latter treatment after all is only good old-fashioned cleanliness made perfect. Let us hope that that will never go out of fashion, as, if it does, I may feel out of it. By all means let nurses be encouraged to continue learning and not consider themselves infallible, no matter how long they are in the work; and when in the good bye-and-bye we have a central authority to define what a trained nurse is, let it look well to our educational needs, and provide preliminary courses which intending nurses may attend, and post-graduate courses for those who need them. All new practical treatments, such as sterilising, heat and light treatment, could be taught in class, and it is not necessary for an efficiently-trained nurse to return to hospital as a pro. to keep up with the times. Good nursing and medical papers, and nursing works such as Stewart's, Hampton's, and Dock's, and practical classes will keep her up to date if she cares to know.—Yours,

PRIVATE NURSE.

LOYALTY.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Your sensible remarks in "Women on Hospital Boards," and the suggestion that women might refuse to help support hospitals from the management of which they are excluded, prompts me to tell you two little true stories, from which each reader may draw her own moral.

Story 1.—There was a great and distinguished university in a corner of the earth which excluded women from its medical school, and it so happened that it needed money very badly. No one offered to give the money, until finally a rich woman came along, and she said, "I will give you all the money you need if you will consent to open your doors to women on equal terms with men." It was a bitter pill, and they hated to swallow it, for they were very masculine and exclusive. But they had to have the money, so down it went.

Story 2.—There were two nursing journals published in Patagonia, and one was written by nurses to help nurses, and one was written by charitable persons to do them harm. The first was named "Square" and the other was named "Crooked." One day one nurse met another nurse, and said to her: "I am so angry with 'Crooked,' for it abuses my hospital, which I love, and my Matron, whom I adore." The other nurse said: "Which paper do you subscribe to, 'Square' or 'Crooked'?" "Well, I would subscribe to 'Square,' but a friend sends me 'Crooked.'" The other nurse said: "If 'Crooked' abuses your hospital and your Matron, you have no one to blame but your-

self. So long as you pay him money for that, of course he thinks you like it." What we pay for we order. What we consume we create.

A READER.

Comments and Replies.

Ward Sister.—Write to W. Greensmith Downes and Son, 143, George Street, Edinburgh, for their patterns of MacGregor's soft-dressed Scotch wincey. Many of the samples are quite charming, and would be very suitable for your requirements.

Maternity Nurse.—Write to the Secretary, Central Midwives' Board, 6, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, who will supply the necessary forms. You must register on your L.O.S. certificate before March 31st next, if you do not wish to have to pass another examination. The registration fee is 10s.

Birmingham Nurse.—The Colonial Nursing Association has its headquarters at the Imperial Institute, S.W. Write to the Secretary. If you have a midwifery certificate, this will stand you in good stead. It is almost always requisite in Colonial appointments.

In Doubt.—You say character cannot be registered. But a strong argument in favour of the State Registration of Trained Nurses is that, indirectly, character will be registered. That is to say, only those applicants will be admitted to the examination qualifying for registration who are recommended by the authorities of the training-schools which have had them under observation for three years. A stronger test could scarcely be imposed. It is strange that any one should fail to appreciate this safeguard.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR 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 vii., or can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

Those interested in the efficient organisation of nursing should procure the Annual Report of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses 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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