

But the point is this—the person signing the schedules in question is required to say that the candidate concerned has truly, and to her satisfaction, attended and observed a definite number of cases.

Surely the mind of anyone who considers it perfectly legitimate to testify that a pupil has seen twenty cases when she has, as a matter of fact, seen only fourteen must be in an exceedingly nebulous condition. The pupil would have seen this number by the time of the examination is the justification put forward. Then, a clear-headed person with any degree of appreciation of the responsibility she undertakes in signing schedules would state this fact definitely, and leave the Society to determine whether or not they will admit the candidate to examination. The decision clearly should rest with them.

The same lack of grip is shown in the case of the pupil sent on from Plaistow. Did she bring any certificate from the authorities at Plaistow stating that she had seen a certain number of cases? No. Was any such certificate asked for? No. On the word of the pupil that she had attended these cases her Superintendent felt no compunction in testifying that to her satisfaction the pupil in question had attended the required number of cases.

If a man of business conducted his affairs in this loose fashion, financial ruin would certainly result. He is aware of it, and is consequently careful, accurate, and precise in his dealings. The majority of women, on the other hand, have very little business grip. Superintendents of nurses and midwives, moreover, are in a very independent position, and get into the way of thinking that if they say or think a thing, that fact makes it right forthwith. The Central Midwives' Board is exercising a wholesome influence in demonstrating to those under its control that if they accept public responsibilities they are bound to show an appreciation of them. We nurses need the control of a similar body. Nurses by this time have had ample illustration of the irresponsible manner in which women will vote. It is still somewhat of a shock to find how irresponsibly they will act. Let us hope that the cognizance taken by the Midwives' Board of such action will have the effect of inducing some at least to reconsider their ways.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

COMMON SENSE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The attention of the Committee of the Winchester Lying-in Charity has been drawn to the report (in your issue of January 28th last) relating to the inquiry by the Central Midwives' Board in the case of Miss Gregory. I am desired to state that the letter (which in the report is stated to have been sent to the Winchester Lying-in Charity by the Obstetrical Society) was never received by them, and its existence only came to their knowledge in January, 1905, consequently they can have no responsibility for the reply. —I am, Yours faithfully, A. PALMER,
Hon. Sec. Winchester Lying-in Charity.

[We have pleasure in inserting this letter. It is presumable that as the London Obstetrical Society received an answer to the letter referred to, and the Charity had no knowledge that it had been addressed to them, it was dealt with by the signatory on his own responsibility.—Ep.]

Comments and Replies.

E. C. Evans, Leicester.—Many thanks for help.

Sister Mary, c—t.—The nurses owe everything to the splendid and disinterested work of those Matrons who have worked for years to better their condition. Let them see to it that their profession is not "nobbled" by those who have stood aside or obstructed progress; just as success is about to crown their efforts. Nothing but legal registration can give the nurses a voice in their own affairs, or confer any prestige.

To a Reader of this Paper.—If the correspondent who writes stating that she is a weekly reader of this journal, but who gives no name or address, will forward them to us we shall be glad to reply to her. These are invariably required, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Private Nurse.—A death must be registered within five days, exclusive of the day of its occurrence. If, however, written notice of the death is sent, accompanied by a medical certificate, further particulars may be given within fourteen days. Notice should be given by the nearest relatives of the deceased or by some other relative dwelling in the same sub-district, or by some person present at the death, or the occupier of the house. In default of these the duty falls upon each inmate of the house where the death took place, and upon the person causing the body to be buried.

Sister of Nurse, Birmingham.—We can recommend the training of the Norland Institute for Children's Nurses, at 10, Pembroke Square, W., thoroughly. As work for an educated woman it is exceedingly important. The Ladies' Liverpool Sanitary Association, 8, Sandon Terrace, Liverpool, also trains these nurses. Tuition for three months' course is £8 8s., including hygiene, needlework, kindergarten. Gloucester also trains at Belmont House, Hinchcombe Street (Miss Baddeley, Cathedral House, Gloucester, Secretary). The Norland was the pioneer training-school.

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 nurses who are working on behalf of the above Society, and are endeavouring to spread knowledge as to its aims, may be glad to know that they can now obtain a Memorandum giving briefly the reasons why Registration is necessary, from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Price 6d. for 20 copies.

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.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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