

Many people are nervous of infection and think a uniform implies contact with it. Again, though a surplice is quite in place in the pulpit, it is totally out of place at a dinner party, and in my view, a uniform which is associated with disease and death is out of place on festive occasions. Neither do I quite see where the economy comes in, for, of course, one cannot go out of doors in the same dress one wears in the wards, and risk bringing back all kinds of germs to the patients, so that a special dress is necessary. I always have on hand one black evening dress simply made, and with very trivial alterations and additions it lasts me for years, and when I go out I am suitably dressed. It comes out of my salary, and I lay by for my old age, too, but then the Committee of this hospital pays me a salary of £40 per annum.

I am, dear Madam,  
Yours faithfully,  
WARD SISTER.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I should be sorry to see the day dawn when Ward Sisters' posts were restricted to women of means, and those to whom the earning of money was a necessity were, perforce, obliged to take up private nursing. The material from which Sisters could be chosen would be very much diminished, and, further, the appointment of a Sister should depend not on her financial stability but upon her qualifications for the post. All women with independent incomes are not good good organisers and teachers, which, as Ward Sisters, they ought to be, though they may be excellent in other positions. All nurses to whom money is a consideration are not suitable for private work, which needs special qualities, which many skilful nurses do not possess. If Sisters were better paid, I believe that many of them would stay longer in their posts, to the great advantage of the institutions concerned.

As it is, they take the first opportunity of applying for a Matron's post, although Sister's work is very congenial to them, and in many instances they are better suited for it.

Yours faithfully,  
F. E. M.

## Comments and Replies.

*Staff Nurse.*—Applications for admission to the Indian Nursing Service should be made to the Under Secretary of State, India Office, St. James's Park, London, S.W. At the time of appointment Sisters must be over twenty-five and under thirty-five years of age. The term of service is for five years, renewable at the option of the Government, and with the consent of the Sister for a further term of five years. Extension of service for a third, and in very exceptional circumstances for a fourth term, may also be granted. Nursing Sisters are paid 175 rupees a month, the value of the rupee being 1s. 3d. At the termination of five years' service Sisters are entitled to a gratuity of 500 rupees. After fifteen years' service a Sister retiring is entitled to a pension of £50, and after twenty years' service of £60.

*Provincial Matron.*—Wherever the plan of giving preliminary training to probationers has been tried, it has invariably been favourably reported on. You will find a reference to the experiment at the Leicester Infirmary in our Nursing Echoes this week (page 237).

## Our Five Guinea Prize Competition.

A Prize of Five Guineas will be awarded each quarter by the Editor to the author of the best article on some practical nursing subject of about 2,000 words in length, with illustrations, of which photographs or engravings must be enclosed, and under the following conditions:—

1. Each competitor must enclose with his or her article a sealed envelope, outside which is written the title of the article, and inside a piece of paper containing the name of the article and the author's full name and address. No letter or other enclosure should give a clue to the identity of the competitor. Envelopes should be marked "£5 5s. Prize Competition."

2. The decision as to the winner of the Prize will be made by the Editor, and this decision must be accepted by each competitor as final and unquestionable. The Prize cannot be won twice in any one year by the same competitor.

3. The Editor reserves to herself the right to publish, if she thinks fit, any of the articles received for the competition; and in such an event will pay the author of such article the sum of one guinea, such article to become the property and copyright of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

All articles competing for the Prize must be received by the Editor, at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W., not later than SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD. The successful article will appear in the Autumn Special Number.

## 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 Hon. 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. Six copies, post free, 7d., or one copy 1½d. It gives a brief review of the history of State Registration.

### 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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