

private house. Many nurses change over at 11 p.m., but that necessitates certain inconveniences, although it provides time for each nurse to get out in daylight, and yet get plenty of sleep. The opinion of experienced private nurses on this point would be of value. —Ed.]

### RURAL NURSING.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I should be very glad if your readers who are experts in rural district nursing could give a solution of the following puzzle:—Three times in the last six months I have happened to come across the same difficulty, and have been asked for advice.

Nursing for outlying hamlets, more especially for confinement cases, since the new Midwives' Act came into force, seems almost impossible.

The place I am visiting now lies in the depths of Devonshire, five miles from X, the nearest small town, with four small hamlets within a radius of about five miles. This distance is almost doubled by the steepness of the hills and the condition of the roads. The birth-rate, as a rule, does not exceed six a year, with occasionally other cases of sickness—not enough to employ a nurse, even if money could be raised for her salary. I suggested affiliation with X, which has a district nurse. "No, that had already been suggested, but X would not entertain the idea. It had more than enough work for its own nurse." "Pay as much as you can towards the keep of a second," but I was told in the four parishes there were only two houses able to subscribe, and if that difficulty were overcome there was the getting of the nurse to her patients. Bicycling is out of the question owing to steep hills and bad roads, and no nurse could cover ten miles a day to her work and back.

It would be possible to fetch her occasionally by cart if she could stay with the case when there, but not to take her to and fro daily.

The squire's wife is strongly in favour of the Holt-Ockley system, and when I as strongly disapproved, asked me to suggest a better plan.

I shall be grateful if some of your readers can.

I am, Madam, yours faithfully,  
E. R.

### NURSING THE PATIENT.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am glad to see that in your last issue one of your correspondents drew attention to the necessity for nursing the patient. "Why, of course," says someone, "whom do we nurse if we don't nurse the patient? how silly!" But if such an one will stop to think a moment, I think she will find that often—not always, by any means, for there are good nurses in all ages—it is the case, the pneumonia, the typhoid, the excision of the hip, the abdominal section, in which the nurse is interested. The patient only concerns her so far as he affords her experience in these directions. But I fully believe one cannot nurse the case as well as may be if one does not take a real human interest in the individual. Again, in a hospital does not even the smartness of the ward sometimes take precedence in the mind of the nurse to the comfort of the patient? That is bad nursing.—Yours faithfully,

AN OLD-FASHIONED NURSE.

### Comments and Replies.

*Monthly Nurse.*—You should ask for directions from the medical man in charge of the patient as to the feeding of the infant. It is not a matter in which the nurse should exercise her own judgment. There are as many individualities of stomachs as there are of faces, and if an infant has to be hand-fed, it is the province of the doctor to say with what, how much, and how often. As a general rule the more premature an infant, the more diluted the food should be.

*Superintendent Nurse.*—Our contention is simply one which is founded on principles of justice and order. The Workhouse Matron is, when the sick wards are not in a separate infirmary, which we fully admit is the best arrangement, nominally responsible for their oversight. She, therefore, should be so actually, and in order to carry out her duties efficiently, she should be acquainted with the details of the work which she supervises. We do not believe any other method can prove satisfactory. We must repeat that divided authority is always productive of friction.

*Certificated Nurse.*—We understand that for the present season the Hop-picking Mission is not in need of more nursing volunteers.

*Miss Thompson.*—You would find Leslie's strapping cleanly and satisfactory in use. The tape plaster, which is put up in various widths, is specially to be commended.

*Diffident.*—We are always glad to consider articles on practical nursing subjects, with a view to publication.

### 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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