

PRIVATE NURSES' PUNCTUALITY.

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

DEAR MADAM,—“A Private Nurse” has, I think, been unfortunate in her experiences. I have never found *trained* nurses tiresome or unpunctual. The “born” nurse and the “experienced” nurse have, I find, not the slightest regard for punctuality. I was on night duty lately where the day work was done by a “born” nurse; she did not live in the house, and for the two months I was there she was never once in time. She thought nothing of coming two, or even three hours late. She was a kind-hearted woman, and I am sure would have been shocked if any one had hinted that she did not do her share of the work. The last “experienced” nurse I worked with could not do night duty at all, so I did the night work for ten months. We were supposed to do from 10 to 10; she never once came on before 10.30, and it was more often 10.45. I am sure she never thought thirty minutes were of any account. She also gave medicine and food with the same fine disregard of time. But the trained nurses I have worked with were always terribly apologetic if only a few minutes late, and I never met one who made a fuss about doing any extra work. The last trained nurse I was with, where we worked from 12 to 12, seemed rather pleased than otherwise when I informed her that the patient was not washed and the bed not made at 12 noon.

ANOTHER PRIVATE NURSE.

DRESSING-GOWNS ON DUTY.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Some time ago I saw it suggested in one of the dailies that night nurses in private nursing should not be compelled to wear uniform, but should wear dressing-gowns. You jumped on the suggestion, and that rightly. Listen to this. The husband of a friend of mine was admitted a short time ago for an operation to a much-advertised Nursing Home, and imagine my friend's disgust when she learned that the young nurse, a very pretty girl, slept in the patient's room, and came on duty in a flowing pink-bellied dressing-gown, with golden locks floating down behind.

It is all very well to say that “to the pure all things are pure.” But such arrangements in common decency ought not to be permitted in a male patient's room.

It is, indeed, high time these Homes were inspected, and it is to be hoped that a very stringent rule would be enforced against young women sleeping in men's rooms, even if the latter are ill. If a nurse is on duty, let her be on duty, and clothed decently. It would be well that some of the eminent surgeons, who send patients to such places, should walk in now and then at night. It is, of course, incredible that they would permit such laxity if they were aware of it.

A WOMAN OF THE WORLD.

[We agree with our correspondent that such an arrangement constitutes a breach of the laws of common decency, and the matter is the more grave that in institutions where such a system prevails professional etiquette is non-existent. These golden-haired syrens are seldom trained nurses; sometimes they are victims of avaricious lay proprietors. It is *cheaper* to provide no night shift of nurses. That is the true reason for the double-bedded room and dressing-gown disgrace.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Private Nurse.—Nursing Oxo is frequently much appreciated by patients who do not like beef extracts of strong flavour or highly seasoned, as it is absolutely unflavoured. From the nurse's point of view it is valuable because it represents a high standard of food value in a concentrated form, and is capable of immediate assimilation. Oxo, in its ordinary form, is a very popular and useful article of diet.

Out-Patient Sister.—The usual method of passing the stomach tube for an ordinary stomach washing is to seat the patient in a chair; protected by a mackintosh sheet, the end of which should rest in a basin between his feet. The tube, which should be taken from cold water, should then be passed rapidly and carefully down into the stomach, the operator standing behind the patient holding the tube firmly with the fingers of both hands. The patient should be instructed to hold the head back and swallow the tube. Miss Dock notes that the tube should be held firmly just at the patient's teeth, so that it be not forced out by reflex peristalsis of the oesophagus or other means.

Inquirer.—One advantage of Allenburys' Milk and Cereal Diet, which is made with pure milk, rich in cream, and whole wheat, is that it is to a great extent predigested in its manufacture, and therefore is specially suited for invalids or aged and dyspeptic persons who cannot digest ordinary milk. The name of Allen and Hanburys, Ltd., of Plough Court, Lombard Street, E.C., is sufficient guarantee that the Diet is of a high standard of merit.

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 iii. of cover, 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 xii.

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