

have had to remonstrate on more than one occasion. Our night nurse was relieved at 9 a.m. She had a meal and went to bed, but was up and out again in the afternoon, and appeared to keep numerous engagements, or she would go out and often not go to her bed till tea-time, when she had to be on duty at 9 p.m. Her health did not suffer. It would be a great help to people employing nurses if they could receive some instructions from the institution sending the nurses, as to hours on and off duty and recreation, as one does not like to interfere unnecessarily with their liberty—only to do what is just both for patient and nurses.—
Yours sincerely,
PATIENT'S WIFE.

PATIENTS FIRST.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Your correspondents writing on the best hour for nurses in private houses to change duty are of very diverse opinions—9, 10, 11, and as late as 12 p.m. has been recommended. Does not that prove that it is a matter which should be left to the family to decide? What is good in one case is not best in another. Personally, I am in favour of 9 p.m. in the generality of cases.—Yours truly,
R. N. S.

[We think the letters on this question do prove that no hard-and-fast hour can be decided as best in all cases for the change of day and night nurse on private duty. We are of opinion that "patients first" is a very good principle to work on. The family must be consulted, and arrangements made which best meet the needs of the well-being of the patient, the comfort of the family, and the health of the nurses; then matters cannot go far wrong.—Ed.]

LITERARY COMPOSITION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In the brilliant address given by Sir John W. Moore, M.D., at the opening meeting of the Session at the Meath Hospital, in Dublin, to which he is attached as physician, he made some very interesting remarks about Literary Composition, and added:—

"We cannot all write with the noble diction and surpassing grace of Lord Macaulay, but we should strive to express our thoughts clearly and with due observance of the rules of grammar. Mention of Macaulay's name tempts me to quote a passage from that master of English, in which he describes the death of Queen Mary from small-pox in the year 1694. He writes:—'That disease, over which science has since achieved a succession of glorious and beneficent victories, was then the most terrible of all the ministers of death. The havoc of the plague had been far more rapid; but the plague had visited our shores only once or twice within living memory; and the small-pox was always present, filling the churchyards with corpses, tormenting with constant fears all whom it had not yet stricken, leaving on those whose lives it spared the hideous traces of its power, turning the babe into a changeling at which the mother shuddered, and making the eyes and cheeks of the betrothed maiden objects of horror to the lover. Towards the end of the year 1694, this pestilence was more than usually severe. At length the infection spread to the palace, and reached the young and blooming Queen. She received the intimation of her danger with true greatness of soul. She gave orders

that every lady of her bed-chamber, every maid of honour, nay, every menial servant, who had not had the small-pox, should instantly leave Kensington House. She locked herself up during a short time in her closet, burned some papers, arranged others, and then calmly awaited her fate.' It is seldom that a disease receives such literary treatment as small-pox does at the hands of Lord Macaulay in the passage I have just quoted. And yet there have been and are masters of English in the ranks of the medical profession."

I am sorry more readers of the Journal do not send the result of their "browsing," as I suggested in the summer. Just little paragraphs like this I have quoted would give pleasure; at least, I should be glad to read them.—Yours truly,
E. S. M.

Comments and Replies.

Inquisitive.—Certainly the certificates of the British Gynecological Society would be of value to you. The certificate of gynæcological nursing is the only one at present obtainable in this branch of work. The certificate in maternity nursing is also unique, as the Society is the only one which insists upon evidence of training in general nursing from candidates. The certificate of the London Obstetrical Society was obtainable by any one without general training who had attended twenty cases of midwifery. It is scarcely necessary to point out that a knowledge of midwifery does not necessarily imply a capacity to nurse, or that it is quite impossible that the art of nursing should be acquired in three months, the period of training usually undergone by candidates for the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society.

Inquirer, Glasgow.—We should advise you to apply to Miss Cowper, Superintendent of the Scottish Branch of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, 29, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh. Or to Miss Hughes, General Superintendent of the Q. V. J. I., 120, Victoria Street, London, S. W.

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.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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