

not able to possess an abiding sense of responsibility, of duty and of sympathy with suffering, should not enter the nursing profession, and if already within its threshold, should not remain.

I was reading these words to-day, quoted by a medical man:—

“Sydenham, the prince of practical physicians, whose character is as beautiful and as genuinely English as his name, . . . wrote this admonition: ‘He who gives himself to the study and work of medicine ought seriously to ponder these four things—

“First, that he must, one day, give an account to the Supreme Judge of the lives of the sick committed to his care.

“Secondly, that whatsoever of art, or of science, he has by the Divine goodness attained, is to be directed mainly to the glory of the Almighty and the safety of mankind, and that it is a dishonour to himself and them to make these celestial gifts subservient to the vile lusts of avarice and ambition.

“Moreover, thirdly, that he has undertaken the charge of no mean or ignoble creature, and that, in order to his appreciating the true worth of the human race, he should not forget that the only-begotten Son of God became a man, and thus far ennobled, by His own dignity, the nature He assumed.

“And, lastly, that as he is himself not exempted from the common lot, and is liable and exposed to the same laws of mortality, the same miseries and pains, as are all the rest; so he may endeavour the more diligently, and with a more tender affection, as being himself a fellow-sufferer, to help them who are sick.”

Yours faithfully,

SISTER AGNES.

[We feel sure that the majority of trained nurses share the sentiments of our correspondent, but it is, unfortunately, true that there are others who give up cases, not because the patient does not need their care, but because the complaint from which he suffers is not of sufficient interest to them.—ED.]

#### HOSPITAL EXPERTS.

To the Editor of the “British Journal of Nursing.”

DEAR MADAM,—Just a suggestion. Here in the country we hear a “very deal,” as our poor say, of hospital and nursing experts. With Mrs. Creighton, I want to know what is an expert? Any way, it seems to me it is high time they conformed to a curriculum before they pose as infallible. Why not registration of hospital experts? For instance, before a layman laid down the law on nursing, why should he not be required to know something about the art? Fancy, what fun the nurse examiners might have! Who would dare to pluck their own chairmen, or the infallible oracles who instruct, criticise, and admonish us through the quack nursing press?

The subject opens up quite a number of questions. Should would-be hospital managers be compelled to hold the diplomas of efficiency before being considered qualified to sit on House Committees; and what should be the standard for Chairmen, Treasurers, and Editors? Or does it strike you as absolutely absurd that men and women who accept such responsibility should know anything at all about either finance, medicine, or nursing, or, indeed, about anything which affects the well being of the sick and the staff, for whom they are responsible?

Yours,

PUZLED.

## Comments and Replies.

*Provincial Matron.*—By becoming a member of the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses, which is affiliated to the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, and to the Provisional Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, you enter into definite relationship with both these Societies.

*Enquirer, London.*—The winner of a competition prize is not debarred from sending in articles which, if suitable, may be accepted under condition 3 of the rules for the Prize Competition, but she would not be awarded the prize twice in twelve months.

*Correspondent, Bristol.*—We are always pleased to receive newspapers containing items of nursing interest, but much valuable time would be saved if our correspondents would always clearly indicate by a conspicuous mark the paragraphs to which they desire to direct our attention.

*Private Nurse.*—The best charts with which we are acquainted are those published by Wodderspoon and Co., of Gate Street, Holborn, W.C. The cost is 2s. for fifty, or a proportionately smaller amount for larger quantities.

*Assistant Nurse.*—Write to the Matron, Sir Julian Goldsmid's Home for Nurses, 12, Sussex Square, Brighton, who will let you know when there is a vacancy. You are eligible for admission, assuming that you have not been in contact with any infectious disease. The charge for a separate bedroom is 25s.

## 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.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)