

AN INTERESTING SUGGESTION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I think your correspondent with the "Interesting Suggestion" deserves many thanks for it, and for the practical illustration of the same. Although it is to be feared that the majority of nurses are all too fond of light literature (with a special emphasis on the *light*), it has been my privilege to know several nurses who have been very careful in their choice of a mental dietary, oftentimes preferring to be thought old-fashioned or "behind the times," rather than read the popular, and sometimes doubtful novel of the moment. From such as these we may surely expect some precious gems, culled from the "King's Treasuries," into which they have been privileged to enter.

May I take this opportunity of thanking you, dear Madam, for the great benefit and enjoyment which I derive from the perusal of your splendid journal. It has never meant so much to me as since I have been in the country, completely isolated from the great nursing world, of which I should be in almost total ignorance were it not for the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

I am, dear Madam,
Faithfully yours,
ELEANOR.

Comments and Replies.

Theatre Sister.—As systems of sterilisation differ so materially, and as practical results are the best test of methods, we have referred your questions to a leading abdominal surgeon, who has kindly replied as follows:—*Horse-hair* and *Silkworm gut* sutures are best sterilised by scrubbing with green soap, rinsing in sterilised water, boiling for one hour in water, and then keeping in methylated spirit until required for use. *Silk* sutures should be scrubbed with green soap, washed in sterilised water, boiled for one hour, wound on sterilised glass rolls, and kept in 1 in 20 carbolic until required for use. *Catgut* is most difficult to sterilise. After trying and discarding most methods, I have for some time relied on the following:—The catgut is well washed in cold water, then well scrubbed with green soap and cold water, rinsed in sterilised water, placed for one week in the following solution:—

Pot. Iodid., half an ounce.

Iodine, half an ounce.

Distilled water, two and a-half ounces.

It is then placed in the following solution for at least a week, and is kept in it until required for use:—

Pot. Iodid., half an ounce.

Distilled water, two and a-half ounces,

being soaked for an hour in cold sterilised water before being used.

Desperation.—We agree with you that the efficient organisation of the nursing in a cottage hospital is not an easy problem. One thing is certain, viz., that if probationers are taken, it should be on the understanding that the experience afforded is in no sense training which will qualify them to rank as trained nurses. The ideal plan of nursing a cottage hospital is that the staff should consist solely of certificated nurses, but committees of cottage hospitals frequently do not consider it necessary to provide the salaries which trained nurses can command.

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.

2. The decision as to the winner of the Prize will be made by the Editor, and the 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 vi, or can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the 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, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Six copies, post free, 7d., or one copy, 1½d. Gives a brief review of the history of State Registration of Nurses.

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 Prize will be found on Advertisement page viii.

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