

points of professional etiquette. The custom, however, is for a nurse to remain in professional attendance upon the surgeon or physician, unless requested by him or by the patient to retire, and we consider this the course which should be pursued.—[Ed.]

A STANDARD FOR MATRONS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am sure that many nurses who read last week in your valuable journal of the action of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, in establishing a standard for Matrons, will most heartily wish that similar action could be taken in this country, and as soon as we get Registration by the State, I hope it may be. Every nurse who holds a three years' certificate is apt to think that she is competent to take any post, whereas so far as her knowledge of many things that a Matron is required to know is concerned it is often very defective. She rarely gets even an insight into household management during her three years' training, nor is it desirable that she should; this period should be spent in the wards, yet household management forms a very important part of the work of a Matron in a small hospital, if expenses are to be kept down, and the woman is not born who does not need training in this branch of work, though she may and should have some general aptitude for it. The born manager, just as much as the born nurse, is a myth in my opinion. Of this I am sure, that all Matrons who have had to learn domestic management by experience after their appointment to posts will envy the coming generation to whom facilities will certainly be offered for obtaining this knowledge in a special course.

I am, Dear Madam, yours faithfully,
MATRON.

Comments and Replies.

Country Matron.—The best way to inaugurate a League is to issue an invitation to past and present certificated members of the nursing staff and explain what is proposed to them. At the conclusion of the address, discussion should be invited, and before the meeting concludes the desirability of carrying out the proposition should be put to the vote. If this is carried, as it usually is with enthusiasm, certain members may then be elected to carry out the organisation work. Later a meeting should be held to elect a President, Secretary, and Treasurer, appoint an Executive Committee, and draw up a Constitution.

Traveller.—You would find the Tabloid Brand pleated compressed dressings very convenient, as they take up so little space, and the cost of carriage is considerably reduced. They are supplied by Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome and Co., Snow Hill, London, E.C. The name of this firm is a guarantee of their excellence.

Charge Nurse.—You will find the method by which diphtheria anti-toxin is prepared described in Miss Dock's *Materia Medica*, published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, 24, Bedford Street, Strand. It is a book no nurse should be without.

Our Practical Points Competition.

A Prize of One Guinea will be awarded by the Editor to the author of the best paragraph of not less than 400 or more than 500 words, descriptive of some point connected with practical nursing. A second Prize of half a guinea will also be awarded to the author of the paragraph which is second in merit. The conditions of the competition are as follows:—

1. Each competitor must enclose with his or her paragraph a sealed envelope, outside which is written the title of the paragraph only, and inside the title of the paragraph with the author's full name and address.
2. The decision of the Editor must be accepted by each competitor as final.
3. The Editor reserves to herself the right to publish any of the paragraphs received for the competition. In such event payment will be made for the paragraph at the current rate, such paragraph to become the property and copyright of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.
4. All competition paragraphs must be received by the Editor, at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W., not later than Thursday, December 28th. The one gaining the prize, with the name of the prize-winner, will be published in our issue of January 6th.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE 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 v., 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 vii

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)