

From the story of our most charming essayist we turn to the last notable book of essays published under the guise of "The Upton Letters, by T. B."

Gossip attributes the "letters" to Mr. Benson, of Eton, and makes her shrewd suggestions as to "the important academical post" referred to in one of the best of the letters which sets forth at some length the reasons for his refusal of this desirable position.

There is, perhaps, nothing very profound in the essays, they are just the comments of a cultured Christian gentleman on the topics of the day, written to a friend compelled by ill-health to winter abroad. The subjects are chiefly literary and educational, and the style altogether charming in its dignity and simplicity. The "letters" on the school sermons, the chapel services, and the *Venite* are particularly interesting in their breadth of view and their common-sense, both qualities unfortunately lacking in so many writers when they touch on religious topics.

In conclusion I should like to quote a few words from the last completed letter written on New Year's Eve, it seems to me peculiarly appropriate to us who as nurses come into touch with so many lives.

Instead of spending the last moments of the Old Year in making futile resolutions, "T. B." says: "One thing only shall I do before I go to sleep—give a thought to all I love and hold dear, my kin, my friends and most of all my boys, I shall remember each, and, while I commend them to the keeping of God I shall pray that they may not suffer through any neglect or carelessness of my own. It is not, after all, a question of the quantity of what we do, but the quality of it. God knows and I know of how poor a stuff our dreams and deeds are woven; but if it is the best we can give, if we desire with all our hearts what is noble and pure and beautiful and true—or even desire to desire it—He will accept the will and purify the deed."—Yours faithfully,

Bournemouth.

HELEN TODD.

Comments and Replies.

Assistant Nurse.—The symptoms of Perchloride and Binioidide poisoning include gastro-intestinal disturbance, particularly diarrhoea; there is also frequently vomiting and salivation. Sometimes suppression of urine—a very dangerous complication—occurs. The treatment of such a case of poisoning is directed to washing the drug out of the system by means of saline purgatives, and large draughts of fluids.

Monthly Nurse.—It is a good working rule that the more premature the infant the more diluted, and the smaller in quantity, the food given should be. The obvious reason for this is that the stomach shares in the general condition of immaturity, and, under ordinary circumstances, would not be required to work at all. It must, therefore, be treated with great consideration if it is to perform the duties which have prematurely fallen upon it.

Miss Thompson.—The Colonial Nursing Association provides trained nurses for certain British Colonies, Dependencies, and Communities abroad both for private and hospital work. Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, Imperial Institute, S.W.

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

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