

practical interest, and I venture to think some discussion of it may have interest for your readers also.

In the first place, I am strongly of opinion that where practicable several midwives should live together, working a definite area from a central home. In rural and scattered districts this is not possible, but in a populous place such as Leyton, in which the difficulty has occurred, the plan would certainly be possible.

From the point of view of the midwives the advantage is obvious, work can be systematised, and the night work does not fall so heavily on anyone, a great consideration when one does midwifery year in year out.

Then, also, it is possible to arrange with a local practitioner for a definite annual fee, which can be settled by mutual agreement, to attend all cases when called in by the midwives connected with the home. This plan has many advantages. The practitioner receives his fee from the institution, not the individual midwife. He can be selected at leisure, and experience in this special branch of work can be taken into consideration in the selection; whereas, if a midwife calls in the nearest practitioner in case of emergency, which is the alternative, she may or may not be doing the best for the patient. Besides, the question of the fee is always a matter difficult of adjustment in this case. Who shall pay it, the midwife who summons the medical practitioner, or the patient on whose behalf he is summoned, and what shall be the amount? In my view, it is much better that these questions should be settled deliberately, not in a moment of stress. Further, it is a great comfort to a midwife to know that behind her is someone on whose help she can, from past experience, rely, and who, knowing that she is not sending unnecessarily, will come promptly when summoned. It appears to me that all these points are worth consideration. And again, method and organisation are the bedrock of efficiency.—I am, dear Madam, yours faithfully,

MIDWIFE.

[We regret to hold over various letters till next week, for want of space.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Frances H., Tredegar.—We do not know of such a book as you require. The needs of hospitals are so varied that it might be difficult to write, but if planned on broad lines would be found useful.

"Bad for a Nurse."—We regret that we are unable to recommend any reliable remedy for sea-sickness, as each individual is influenced by different methods. Personally, we find lying quite flat on the back, with feet towards the bows, and keeping the eyes shut, is an almost sure preventive; but with little children to look after this would be impossible. We should advise you to consult your family physician. He will doubtless give you something to help you through one night.

Would-be Private Nurse.—The success of a woman in private nursing depends upon herself. Some nurses are asked for again and again by doctors and patients, others only get cases through their society. If after six months' work, a nurse is not specially asked for, we consider she is lacking in those qualities which are essential to compel success. It is usually lack of tact, unpleasing manners, or selfishness which cause failure.

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 vii., 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. It 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 Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page viii.

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