

for these children. They were faces full of intellectual strength, firmness, and benevolence.

It has always seemed to me that no medical man nor nurse can obtain perfect results if, when examining the pulse, temperature, and respiration of a patient, they do not make a note of the nervous system and treat and nurse it accordingly.

It is an insight which some doctors and nurses have intuitively, but in these days intuition is not sufficient, training based on science and perfect knowledge is what is required.

Yours faithfully,

E. R. WORTABET.

#### TESTIMONIALS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Your correspondent, A. M. Carson, says that my letter on the subject of testimonials "exudes a cheap, comfortable, armchair morality." I fail to understand in what way. It was a plain statement of facts, and the only moral was that to which you drew attention, viz, that "testimonials as to the work of the rank and file of nurses are of most value when given by their superior nursing officers." This fact is now well recognized in the nursing world, and one can constantly see, and is glad to see, in advertisements for nursing appointments "Matron's testimonial essential." The same holds good in connection with Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, and other public Services.

A. M. Carson wishes to know whether I made use of these "meretricious" testimonials. I do not understand how this affects the point of issue one way or the other. I may also point out that the word "meretricious" is quite a wrong one to be applied to testimonials honestly given after due enquiry, even if they are second hand instead of first hand. That this is the case is because the public "loves to have it so," and it is a tax which ought not to be imposed upon busy medical men. As a matter of fact I did not use the testimonials because I have had no occasion to do so, I have only held two appointments in the last fourteen years, and these were both offered to me without my seeking them in any way. It may relieve your correspondent's mind to know that I did not accede to the kindly suggestion as regards the testimonials "please add anything you like."

I am quite sure that many other nurses could bear similar testimony to my own.—Yours faithfully,

MATRON.

#### THE WEARING OF UNIFORM.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am very glad to observe that you are dealing in your valuable Journal with the subject of nurses' uniform, and I do most heartily endorse your view that if uniform is worn at all the wearer should take a wholesome pride in its appearance, as the sign of the honourable calling to which she belongs.

But should this altruistic view fail to appeal to any nurses in this material age, may I draw attention to another point? A shabby uniform does not denote prosperity. From a lack of the visible signs of prosperity it is naturally in-

ferred that a nurse is more or less a failure, and the public wants to be nursed by the woman successful in her calling, not by the failures. This argument for carefulness as to the condition of one's uniform is, I am aware, not a very lofty one, but it nevertheless is a practical one, and, as such, I think, merits some consideration.

Yours faithfully

A PRACTICAL PERSON.

#### Comments and Replies.

X. Y. Z.—The case you mention is not at all unusual. The fragment of broken bone may tear an artery or cause the formation of an aneurism or by its temporary pressure on a vein may cause a clot to form in the vessel. This clot may subsequently become detached, be swept along by the circulation through the right side of the heart, and then become blocked in a branch of the pulmonary artery and so cause pneumonia. In like manner, a block in the femoral vein not infrequently follows a fracture of the tibia and fibula, and an injury to the adjacent blood vessels. The consequences are, in fact, merely mechanical and are not necessarily, in fact, very seldom, septic in character.

Nurse J. C. W.—(1) Write to the Secretary, Colonial Nursing Association, Imperial Institute, London, S.W. A midwifery certificate in addition to one for general nursing is a necessity in most of these appointments. (2) We think you must mean the Up-country Nursing Association for Europeans in India. Write to the Hon. Secretary, Dalkeith House, Cambridge Park, Twickenham.

Knowledge.—The clause of the Midwives' Act, which takes effect in 1910 does not affect women registered as in *bonâ fide* practice at the passing of the Act. It prohibits women from attending habitually and for gain, upon women in childbirth, except under the direction of a qualified medical practitioner, unless certified under the Act. At present, provided they do not use the name of midwife, they are not prohibited.

#### 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 advt. page vi., 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.

##### OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page viii.

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