

selves Q.V.J.N's. I know I found my training in the home of the greatest service to me during the three years I was at the work; it is so very different from life in hospital that I think one needs special training for it (and I don't believe I am much more stupid than the ordinary run of nurses). May I suggest that now that it is necessary for district nurses to have three years' training, that it also be made necessary for them to spend at least six months in a District Nursing Home.

I remain, madam,

Your truly, L. HAUGHTON.

[We should advise our correspondent to communicate with the Central Office of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute.—Ed.]

THE INFIRMARY NURSE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am very glad to observe that at the last meeting of the Central Midwives' Board Miss Paget warmly defended the infirmly trained nurse against the strictures then passed upon her. It will be remembered that Miss Amy Hughes spoke strongly before the Select Committee of her value in private nursing. As Miss Paget, who has every means of judging, speaks to her value as a district nurse, and also in colonial nursing she is able to prove herself capable in a considerable area. The training of the nurses in many infirmaries at the present day is thorough and efficient, and the devotion of many of them to their work is beyond all praise.

But I admit there is another side, and the lesson is, perhaps, that it is unsafe to generalise on any subject. All infirmaries are not on a level with the best in regard to the type of probationer selected, or the training given and the discipline maintained. If you select a rough and coarse woman for training you need not expect her to come out anything else at the end of it. It is just here that one sees the difference between nurses trained in infirmaries which are separate from the workhouse, and where the guardians rely upon the advice of a trained Matron in selecting probationers, and uphold her authority at other times, and those where the hands of this expert officer are tied, so that the things which she very well knows should be done cannot be done. The lesson is this, that all Matrons of Infirmaries should be given the authority in the supervision of the training schools which is now accorded to them in the best schools, but not invariably, by the Medical Superintendents with whom it legally rests, and that the Guardians should in every way, when they have appointed a suitable Matron, trust and uphold her. There would then be little fault to find with the quality, or the personal attributes of infirmary nurses.

I may add that I think all infirmary trained nurses are better for some further experience of surgical work. They get excellent medical and often obstetric work, but in many the surgical work is very limited, and in none does it reach the proportion attained in a busy general hospital.

Yours faithfully, LOOKER ON.

Comments and Replies.

Miss C. F., India.—Your best plan would be to obtain the Nursing Directory, which may be had from the office of this journal, price 5s. and study the regulations of the various schools. You would probably have to wait for some time for a vacancy in any of the best. It would not be possible to secure a vacancy before coming to this country as a personal interview with the Matron is in all instances necessary. In some hospitals a premium is required, but, as a rule, a small salary is given from the first. The chief initial expense then is uniform, which costs a few pounds, afterwards a certain amount is supplied by the hospital as a rule. You do not mention age. The age limit, usually, is thirty-five.

Mrs. J. R. D., New Zealand.—State Registration of nurses is not yet in force in this country, though lately we have been making satisfactory progress towards that goal. You will find all information on the subject from time to time in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

Children's Nurse.—It is not uncommon for a baby's breasts to become swollen or hard. Ignorant midwives and monthly nurses sometimes squeeze them to squeeze the milk out of them, which is a proceeding liable to produce all kinds of troubles. The hardness generally yields to bathing with fairly hot water, absorbent wool being afterwards placed over the breasts. If not, then a doctor should be consulted.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

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.

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.

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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