

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have read with much pleasure your editorial remarks as to the training of nurses, in last week's Journal, and hope that they will be widely read by the authorities of the training schools. As the Matron of a hospital in a British Colony, I must say my experience is that the class of nurse who comes out is steadily deteriorating. They seem to have so little common-sense, and to be so helpless in any situation outside the ordinary routine of the hospital ward, and even there the methods of work of the majority seem to me to be very rough and ready, and to lack the finish of those nurses who were trained years ago. I don't think this is altogether the fault of the nurses, because they seem quite pleased to have better methods explained to them, and they mostly fall into one's ways after a bit. But surely there is something wrong in the training when certificated nurses have so little self-reliance that they have to run to the Matron about the most ordinary nursing details. However it may be at home, what we want abroad are capable, dependable and self-reliant nurses.

I am, dear madam,

Faithfully yours,

COLONIAL MATRON.

LECTURES TO WARD SISTERS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I should like to thank you for the extremely interesting series of Lectures to Ward Sisters now being published in your valuable journal. I have always been very interested in the nursing of diphtheria, and at one time did a great deal of it, and have also had the disease myself, I have read up all I could, but I never understood as I have done since I read last week's lecture how the poison is manufactured, and why painting the throat does not affect it. It is quite easy to understand now Dr. Gordon has explained so clearly why this should be so. I am sure that many nurses are thirsting for information of this sort, and long to know the why and wherefore of things. But though they are taught a certain amount in lectures, and though many house-surgeons are willing enough to give nurses any explanations they can, only a limited number have the faculty of teaching what they know. Besides there is little enough time in the life of a busy house-surgeon or physician to add to his other duties the voluntary instruction of nurses. Such papers, therefore, as appear from time to time in your valuable journal are most welcome.

Yours faithfully,

WARD SISTER.

DUSTBINS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Your correspondent, "Hygiene," has evidently suffered as I have from the present insanitary methods of dust and garbage storage and collection. Surely some of the societies interested in sanitary questions might take the matter up. It is time!

Yours faithfully,

SUFFERER.

Comments and Replies.

Certificated Nurse.—The next examination of the Central Midwives' Board will be held in London and the Provinces on October 25th. The regulations of the Board are published by Spottiswoode and Co., Ltd., 5, New Street Square, London, E.C. Applications for vacancies as to training should be made to the Matrons of any of the hospitals recognised by the Board as training schools.

Miss E. Johnson.—There are now quite a number of Nurses' Leagues in this country, all of which are in a flourishing condition. The meetings afford most useful opportunities for the discussion of professional matters, and also for social enjoyment, the re-unions of old friends and fellow-workers being most successful. The pioneer league, that of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, owes its foundation to Miss Isla Stewart, the Matron, who is always foremost in progressive movements.

Would-be Probationer.—We cannot advise you to enter any hospital for training where the three years' standard is not maintained. It is now the generally recognised period of training, and you would find yourself handicapped in the future by a shorter certificate.

Notices.

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.

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.

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.

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 vii., or can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford 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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