

firmaries that they not unfrequently receive news of a death in advance of the relatives, and take steps to secure the order for the funeral almost before the friends have realised their loss. It is rather ghoul-ish, is it not?—Yours faithfully,

OUT-PATIENT NURSE.

THE GROWTH OF TRUTH.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I read with the greatest interest your report of Professor Osler's oration on "The Growth of Truth." Do not most of us accept what is taught us without troubling to inquire into its truth? How many people do we know of original minds? Personally, I could count them on the fingers of one hand, and in the nursing world they are specially scarce. "It always has been done" seems to many nurses the best of reasons why it always should be done. And yet if we do not keep our minds open to the reception of fresh knowledge how can we ever leave the world a little better than we found it, as is our bounden duty?

Yours faithfully,

TRUTH AT ANY PRICE.

Comments and Replies.

Enquirer.—Invalid carriages, of the latest design, for the removal of patients by road, rail, or sea, together with attendants who travel with the carriage to its destination, can now be obtained, at a few hours notice, from Messrs. E. and R. Garrould, 150, Edgware Road, W. The firm will supply any further particulars on application.

Matron.—The firm of Burgoyne, Burbidges & Co., 12, Coleman Street, E.C., have a water-proof sheeting (Lozal) for which the following advantages are claimed. It is not affected by boiling water, urine, chloroform, alcohol or carbolic acid. A water-proof sheeting which has these properties should command a ready sale. Xeniform, a non-poisonous and non-odorous substitute for iodoform, supplied by this firm, is said to have been used with success in the Cuban War.

Maternity Pupil.—The reason why there is little trouble as a rule in the management of an infant's cord is because of the precautions observed in regard to it. But there may be many contretemps. Traction on it may cause protruding navel, or even umbilical hernia. Short of the use of definite traction, protrusion is easily caused if, for want of due safeguarding, the cord is dragged on during delivery. If unclean scissors are used to sever the cord, tetanus may follow, if the stump is not carefully dressed or if any undue attempt is made to separate it prematurely, hæmorrhage from the navel may occur. Of course, also hæmorrhage will occur if the cord be not securely tied in the first instance.

Certificated Nurse.—All nurses who contemplate doing private nursing will do well to obtain some experience in the care of mental cases. They should be able to take such cases if necessary, and frequently mental symptoms are met with in patients who are not classified under this heading.

Three Prize Competitions.

The Editor offers the following prizes:—

No. 1. PRACTICAL NURSING ARTICLE.

A prize of £2 2s. for the best article on a Practical Nursing Subject, of from 1,300 to 1,400 words. Illustrations are not compulsory, but add to the value of the article. Papers competing for this prize must be received by the Editor not later than Saturday, November 10th. The article gaining the prize and the name or pseudonym of the prize-winner will appear on November 17th.

No. 2. PUZZLE COMPETITION.

Details will be found on page viii.

No. 3. A PARAGRAPH OF PRACTICAL NURSING INTEREST.

A prize of 10s. for the best paragraph on a post-card of practical nursing interest. See our weekly "Practical Points" column. Postcards competing for this prize must reach the Editor not later than Saturday, November 3rd. The paragraph gaining the prize, and the name or pseudonym of the prize-winner will be published on Saturday, Nov. 10th.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING COMPETITIONS

1 AND 3.

Each competitor for No. 1 Prize must enclose with his or her article or paragraph a sealed envelope, outside which is written the title of the contents only, and inside the title of the contents with the author's full name and address. The covering envelope in the case of Competition 1, and the postcard in Competition 3, should bear the words "Prize Competition."

The Editor reserves to herself the right to publish any of the articles or paragraphs received for the competition. In such event payment will be made at the current rate; such article or paragraph to become the property and copyright of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

All competitions must be addressed to the Editor, at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

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, W. Six copies, post free, 7d.

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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