

manual domestic labour must be performed by them, and this exhausts much energy and strength. The duties of the medical officers are far otherwise. They go on duty several hours later in the morning, everything is prepared for them, they issue orders, and, with the exception of operating, their work is largely mental and is not physically exhausting.

Mr. Rendall is wrong in his assumption that our reply would be that a medical officer "may be trusted to use his liberty in such a manner as not to abuse it or to injure his patients." We inferred no such thing; we think he too should conform to regulations—but the truth is that in all the public hospital services men's hours of work are far shorter, and the physical strain far less arduous, than those of women. This is a point Members of Parliament might well consider.

In referring to "the due observance of the usual etiquette between their respective professions" (medicine and nursing) the question of "social spheres" has nothing to do with it. There are quite as many gentlewomen in nursing, as gentlemen in medicine. But professional etiquette must be maintained between *senior and junior officials* on duty, such as the medical officer, and the trained nurse, and this is difficult, if they "hob nob" outside. We think the less said about the relaxation of discipline during the South African War the better, the result was most disastrous. If when off duty, that is not in the wards, Army nurses are to be absolutely independent using the Home merely as an hotel, the whole system of nursing in military hospitals must be reorganised, and the Matrons at once relieved of all responsibility for the efficiency and morale of the nursing department.—Ed.]

## Comments and Replies.

*District Midwife.*—Many midwives and nurses use King's Patent Cooked Oatmeal in preparing gruel for their patients. The advantage of it is that being previously cooked one minute's boiling is sufficient, thus saving much time necessary in the preparation of ordinary gruel. Another advantage is that while the nutritious properties of the oatmeal are preserved the too heating qualities of ordinary groats and oatmeal have been eliminated by a special process.

*Three Years' Certificate.*—In private nursing, training in mental nursing in addition to a certificate of general training is a very useful qualification. Often the demand for such nurses is greater than the supply. A nurse who has only a three years' certificate is very ill-equipped for private nursing.

*India.*—Apply to the Secretary, Colonial Nursing Association, Imperial Institute, S.W.

*Correspondent, Belfast.*—You will find all particulars concerning the principal nurse training schools in the Nursing Directory, published at the Office of this Journal, 11 Adam Street, Strand, price 5s.

## Three Prize Competitions.

The Editor offers the following prizes:—

### No. 1. PRACTICAL NURSING ARTICLE.

A prize of £5 5s. for the best article on a Practical Nursing Subject, containing 1,500 to 1,600 words, with illustrations, of which photographs or drawings must be enclosed. Papers competing for this prize must be received by the Editor not later than Saturday, December 29th, 1906. The article gaining the prize and the name or pseudonym of the prize-winner will appear early in the New Year.

### 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 postcard, of practical nursing interest. See our weekly "Practical Points" column. Postcards competing for this prize must reach the Editor not later than Saturday, Jan. 5th, 1907. The paragraph gaining the prize, and the name or pseudonym of the prize-winner will be published on Saturday, Jan. 12th.

### 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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