

would not remain very long without possessing a copy.

I remain, yours faithfully,

AGNES E. RIDER.

24, Eastbourne Terrace, W.

[Private nurses suffer most by being classed with untrained, or semi-trained women of bad character, who compete with them, and naturally prejudice the public against private nurses. We hope after the holidays to enlist the active help of all well-trained private nurses in the demand for State Registration—the only way by which they can dissociate themselves from incompetent criminals, and protect sick people from them.—Ed.]

THE NURSE-THIEF.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am a doctor's wife, once a nurse, and we both find your admirable paper very instructive. Perhaps an experience of my own may interest others.

When my second child was born I had a nurse from a local nursing home—a very refined woman, very skilful and kind. One evening during my convalescence there was great trouble in the house, as a ring I valued very much was missing. No where could it be found, and my husband said that if it was not found by the morning a search would be made by the police.

The housemaid who did my room had been with us some time, and I had missed nothing, so imagine my grief when in doing the stove the following morning she whisked the ring out of her brush box, with the polishing cloth, and there it lay on the mat. The nurse picked it up, and, after handing it to me, left the room.

Then the storm burst. E. (the housemaid) denied having taken it. She was very indignant; was for fetching the police. But I pointed out to her that would be fatal, and that I did not intend to prosecute her. Poor thing! how she wept, and cried in a heart-broken way:—

"It's too cruel; I never took it—what's poor girls got but their characters—and now you think me a thief."

I tried to passify her, and in the end felt so convinced of her innocence that I kept her, and thankful I am I did, although she was full of resentment, and brooded much over the matter.

Some time after the Lady Superintendent of the Home called upon me and informed me that E. had been to see her, and under a promise of secrecy told her about the loss of the ring, and said, "I suppose I should be had up for libel if I spoke out, but that nurse of yours stole that ring, and dropped it into my box for fear of the police. It's your duty to have her watched." Later, thefts took place which placed the nurse under suspicion, and she had been *quietly parted with*. Which meant she was at liberty to continue her criminal career.

When I told E. what had passed, her reply was "I know'd it all along, and it's a very serious thing for poor servants, who have only their char-

acters to depend on, as that thief should be going in and out of private houses, bringing trouble on them. *Can't nothing be done to stop it?*" That was a very pertinent question, and the reason I retail this little domestic episode.

Yours truly,

A DOCTOR'S WIFE.

P.S.—I may add that at the large London hospital at which I was trained thefts were of constant occurrence in the Nurses' Home. Those suspected would be got rid of, but nothing was done to prevent these women working as "trained" nurses.

Comments and Replies.

T.V.—Get "The Natural and Artificial Methods of Feeding Infants and Young Children," by Dr. Edmund Cautley, price 7s. 6d., published by Messrs. Churchill, 7, Great Marlborough Street, London.

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. 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 an Act providing for the Legal Registration of Trained Nurses 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.

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 xii.

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