

TEETH AND TOE-NAILS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—At the last meeting of the Mile End Board of Guardians the Scattered Homes Committee brought up reports of the rota committees on their visits to the homes. In most of these was a paragraph stating that the toe-nails were well kept. Mr. Newport asked the meaning of this. Were the board going in for cock-fighting? If so, they should put spurs on the feet. Councillor Dr. Atkinson said that it had been laid down that guardians should act as inspectors, and that while he was one he should look after the children's hair, teeth, and feet.

May I congratulate the medical Councillor, and add how necessary it is that some improvement should take place even in the "best training schools" (if there is more than one) concerning these details? In the hospital in which I am working the hair receives attention, the nails very little—toes are supposed to be washed once a week—but there is no rule as to keeping nails cut and clean on either hands or feet. As far as the teeth are concerned there is absolutely no convenience for patients to keep them clean, no tumblers or powder are provided, and with very few exceptions I have never seen a patient cleanse the teeth—or heard a sister or doctor suggest that he should do so. Would that Councillor Dr. Atkinson went the rounds of this hospital.

I am, yours truly,

A PAXING PRO.

ADDRESS WANTED.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I shall be very glad if anyone—through the Query column in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING—can tell me of a Home where a poor, though very respectable, girl could be taught needlework sufficiently to enable her to earn her living.

I am a Queen's Nurse, and have nursed the girl, who has had, and to a certain extent still has, exophthalmos from enlarged thyroid gland. She has been taught by a lady interested to do ordinary fancy work, and has shown very good abilities for it, and I wondered if there are any Homes for Chronic Invalids where perhaps Church needlework is taught.

Thanking you in advance,

I remain, yours truly,

Q.V.J.I.N.

[We believe the St. Peter's Sisterhood has such a Home. Write to the Mother Superior, St. Peter's Home, Mortimer Road, Kilburn.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Certificated Nurse.—Many nurses pass through their hospital training, without gaining a knowledge of the nursing technique in ear cases. A convenient method of syringing and douching the ears is described in "Practical Nursing" by Miss Isla Stewart. A douche can is placed above the level of the patient's head containing the lotion to be used, at a temperature of 95 degrees. The

nurse seats herself opposite the affected ear, and, with her left hand, draws it gently backwards and upwards. The nozzle of the syringe is then placed just within the upper part of the opening of the ear, the handle of the instrument being slightly depressed, so that the point of the nozzle is directed towards and touches the roof of the ear. The syringe is then gently emptied, the lotion being caught in a kidney tray.

Nurse B.—Opium lessens the secretion of bile and urine, and constipates the bowels. The action of the skin is not decreased by it. It is eliminated by the breath, perspiration, urine, and milk. The latter point should be remembered in connection with a nursing mother.

Salus Infirmorum.—We are much obliged for your letter. Miss Burr's paper, published in our last issue on the History of this Journal has brought us so many letters of appreciation that it is quite impossible to print them all. We will bear your request in mind, but the pressure on our space is so great that many matters we should like to deal with are crowded out.

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 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.

PRIZE PUZZLE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page xii.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)