

In my hospital, a large London one, the importance of teeth cleaning was just being recognised, and in many wards the patients cleaned their teeth as an ordinary routine thing, a mug being given to them for the purpose, when a basin of water was given them for washing themselves. The tooth brushes were kept with the patients' washing things.

In the case of the patients who are too ill to wash themselves, their mouths are cleaned as an ordinary routine thing.

As for the cost, where a patient could really not afford a tooth brush, surely one might be provided out of some fund. The Samaritan fund could perhaps be used for this purpose, as, unless people have good teeth and clean mouths, the nourishment provided does them little good.

In the case of the patients who put their teeth away for the night, are they never cleaned?

How many hospital patients get 2 lbs. of steak daily, or monthly, with which to clean their teeth?  
C. S.

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

MADAM,—I find no difficulty in having the teeth of the twenty children here thoroughly cleansed. Each child has its own towel, flannel, brush, comb, small comb, and tooth-brush, so all the toilet requisites are brought to the bed together. The elder children clean their own teeth and the nurses attend to those of the tinies. I find the children appreciate the habit, and are proud of white teeth.

Yours faithfully,

H. M. THOROLD, Matron.

The Country Branch of the Alexandra Hospital for Children with Hip Disease.

#### THE HELPLESS POSITION OF NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Once more the whole profession owes your journal a debt of gratitude for warning us of the Bill drafted so quietly by Mr. Sydney Holland and his Council. I am glad to know that its provisions will be discussed and made clear to us before Parliament meets. No sooner have we spent time and money in attempting to combat—I hope successfully—the degradation of the Asylums Board Matrons, than another danger stands in our path. The fact that the Central Hospital Council for London have launched a Bill, without consulting the thousands of trained nurses which it is designed to affect, condemns it unheard. We may be voteless, but we are no longer voiceless, thanks to the "B.J.N." Once more we must be up and doing if we mean to have liberty to breathe—and, what is equally important, liberty to earn an honest living, without being charged 100 per cent. by the hospitals for so doing. No wonder self respecting women are beginning to fight shy of the nursing world, exploited at every turn, and undersold as skilled nurses are. The workhouse looms pretty clear before many of us.

Yours gratefully,

A PRIVATE NURSE.

## Comments and Replies.

*Queen's Nurse.*—The very book you require is: "Modern Methods for Securing Surgical Asepsis," by Edward Harrison, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S., published by A. Brown and Sons, 5, Farringdon Avenue, E.C., and at Hull and York. Price, 3s. 6d. net; post free 3s. 9d. Try the Medical Supply Association, 228-230, Gray's Inn Road. Their india-rubber hot-water bottles are excellent—a large variety of sizes and prices. They are most welcome Christmas presents.

*Maternity Nurse.*—The nicest pulley for the use of a patient during labour is one knitted of soft, thick, white knitting cotton. This is made long enough for the patient to hold when doubled. The loop formed by doubling it is passed round the rail at the bottom of the bed, and the free ends passed through it and given to the patient to hold. An efficient substitute is one made of unbleached calico.

*Miss Edmonds.*—Castor oil made into an emulsion by placing the dose to be taken in a bottle with two parts boiling milk to one part oil, and then shaken till thoroughly mixed, is often taken by a patient who will refuse the oil when administered in other ways. To patients who like olives, and are allowed to have them, an olive is very acceptable after the dose.

## 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.

#### PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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