

velope. Thanking you in anticipation in the cause of humanity.

I am, Madam,
Your obedient servant,
JAS. R. WILLIAMSON.

100, Chedington Road,
Upper Edmonton, London, N.

[Writing in an Italian medical paper on "Acidification of the Viscera as a Symptom of Death," Dr. Ascarelli Attilio draws attention to the difficulty of ascertaining whether death has really taken place, which has been recognised in Germany by attaching to every cemetery a mortuary room in which every body is retained for a certain number of hours before burial, while attached to it are instruments of precision which will give warning of the slightest movement. The author has made an extended series of experiments on dogs to ascertain whether the acidification of the tissues of the body, which takes place soon after death, cannot be made use of as an exact demonstration of death. He gives it as his conclusion that this acidification does take place uniformly in the tissues, so that its occurrence may be regarded as an infallible sign of real death. It is the first symptom of death appearing in 35 minutes after the cessation of the heart beats. The removal by means of a trochar of a small portion of the splenic parenchyma, and testing it, will show the presence of acidity. Acidity appears first in the spleen, kidneys, heart, and liver. The cause of death makes certain variations in the phenomena, but the rapidity of death has no effect on acidification.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

To Various Correspondents.—The Registration Bill of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses (Bill 106) may be obtained from Wyman and Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C., price 2d. post free, or through any bookseller.

Maternity Nurse.—The rule of the Central Midwives' Board is that all instruments and appliances brought in contact with the generative organs of the patient should be disinfected, preferably by boiling. This rule should also be put into practice by maternity nurses.

Miss E. S. F., Greenwich.—After New Year the Matrons' Council is going to give consideration to the matter in which you, with many others, are interested. The exclusion of women from citizenship, and thus from participation in government, deprives the community of the brain power of half the nation. It is a stupid, sinful waste. We believe Elizabeth Fry, the patron saint of prisoners, left the nursing profession a special duty to perform in relation to crime. If, through State Registration, we could get our feet professionally firm we could do wonders. Nursing is now nebulous—in the public mind. When clearly defined it will take it seriously and give us a chance. We should advise you to write to the Medical Officer, Holloway Prison, N.; he would give you information.

A Christmas Wish.

If in thy dreams some vision haunt thy way,
If in thy heart some hidden hope abide,
Too deep, too dear, to live in common day—
God give thee joy of it this happy tide.

If in thy prayer some keener sense awaking,
Shew thee glad angels on life's dark hillside,
Tell thee the Christ is born, the bright day
breaking—

God grant thee grace of it this holy tide.

H. C. SHUTTLEWORTH.

From *A Second Garland of Christmas Verse.*

A Word for the Week.

O Friend, never strike sail to a fear! Come
into port greatly, or sail with God the seas.

EMERSON.

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.

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