

appearance should be "suitable." That is the lesson I gather from the "Tosfield" bonnet; and here may I be permitted to hope we may have other papers on your most interesting past. I cannot tell you how greatly we have enjoyed those just published in this hospital. Your object, I gather, was not to masquerade, but to appear suitable for the post for which you were applying — that your appearance should be an index of your mind. My sisters, who are typists, have adopted a sort of unofficial uniform—black gowns and coats (no blouses), and white cuffs and collars. They work in lawyers' offices with men only, and have been highly commended by sensible men for their neat and workmanlike appearance. One good operator was parted with because of her unsuitable appearance—flimsy blouse and glass pearl necklace. Lack of taste lost her a good salary.

I am,

Yours truly,

V. M.

BLACK BABIES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I was glad to read the account published last week in the Journal of a black baby, for I think many people have the quite mistaken notion that white babies possess the monopoly of attraction.

I have known babies of all colours, white and black, brown and yellow, and it is the rarest thing in the world to find an unattractive one. I do not think I am especially a baby lover either. I know many nurses who have that instinct far more highly developed than I have, but I simply cannot understand the person who does not feel the charm of a baby, and I do not think any babies have that charm more strongly than the black ones, with their satiny skins, tight curly hair, and endearing ways. If you make overtures to a black baby—at least an African one—he puts out not his arms but his legs to you, because he expects either to be slung on your back or to sit on your hip, for his mother always carries him in one of these positions. Why not? Why should he occupy both your arms, and incapacitate you for doing anything else useful, when he can be accommodated so comfortably and sensibly in the manner described? I believe the custom of carrying babies about in one's arms must really have originated with a shirker, like a nurse I once knew who, when the ward was busiest, would pick up one of the babies and walk about with it. It was a pose which looked well, and gained for her much commendation (she was so fond of the bairns, and so good to them, it was said), but the pros knew that while their staff philandered with the babies they had to get the ward work done. Now, if the practical fashion I have described were adopted in this country, that nurse would have had both hands disengaged, and could have done her work as usual. I venture to think that in that case her devotion to the babies would have diminished, and it would not have been found necessary to take them up so often.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

A COSMOPOLITAN NURSE.

Comments and Replies.

To Correspondents.—Replies to letters concerning hospital training, etc., can only be answered in this column.

E. B., Devonshire.—We know of no adult "surgical" hospital which admits probationers at your age. We should advise you to begin in a children's hospital, and as you wish to be near Manchester, apply to the Lady Superintendent, Manchester Hospital for Children, Pendlebury, Lancs.

F. T. A., Sheffield.—There are several excellent hospitals in your native town, but personally we always recommend nursing candidates to apply for training at a distance from home. It is much less distracting for a probationer not to break the hospital routine by running home when off duty. Family fuss and gossip are also thus avoided. There are good training schools at Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Leicester, and Nottingham. Apply to the Matron.

Maternity Nurse.—The use of incubators, when skilfully managed is a valuable means of preserving the life of premature infants, and those of low vitality; but unless in competent hands they are worse than useless, and it is much better to rely on other means such as hot water bottles, wool, etc., for maintaining warmth.

Miss Evans.—A private nurse, when she has reported ready for duty should have her box for the most part packed, so that if a sudden call arises and she has to catch a train quickly there will be no unnecessary delay.

Mrs. Edmonds.—In the case of constipation in an infant it must be remembered that the child is affected by the mother's diet. It often happens that if the mother takes an aperient the bowels of the infant are relieved.

Nurse Finch.—Probably the best experience in the nursing of enteric fever is to be had in the large fever hospitals, such as those under the Metropolitan Asylums' Board. We have been told by a nurse who has had six years' experience in large general hospitals, that she never saw such bad cases of enteric in them as subsequently in a M.A.B. hospital.

Notices.

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.

Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

Advertisements and business communications should be addressed to the Manager, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 11, Adam Street, Strand, W.C.

OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

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