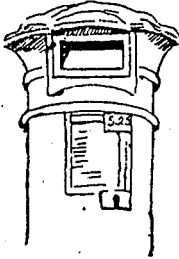


Letters to the Editor.



Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in any way hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

OUR GUINEA PRIZE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I beg to acknowledge a cheque for £1 ls. as the result of Puzzle Prize, for which I thank you.

Wishing your valuable paper every success.

Yours faithfully,

MAUD CRICHTON, Matron.

The Hospital, Louth, Lincolnshire.

REGISTRATION FINANCE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have read with great interest Miss Mollett's letter in your columns on the subject of Registration Finance. What is worth having is surely worth paying for, and it is only right and proper that all officials under the Registration Council should be fairly remunerated. It would be quite as reasonable to argue that all hospital workers—from the Matron downwards—should be voluntary workers, as that the whole machinery of registration should be kept in motion as a work of charity.

Miss Mollett remarks that English and Irish probationers are drawn from the middle classes.

In my hospital days, the same condition existed in Scotland, and I learn from several Matrons that those who now enter general hospitals belong to the same classes. Why all this unseemly outcry about the hardships of poor nurses?

It would be interesting to know how much has been subscribed by nurses to other objects than charitable ones during the past year!

Scotch probationers receive salaries, and I have heard many nurses remark that they could save more—in proportion—while "pros" than afterwards when in receipt of good salaries. Again, consider the number of nurses who on the completion of general training go in for midwifery, not with the view of practising as midwives, but simply for the purpose of adding to their qualifications. Many women without any training go in for midwifery for the purpose of making a living as monthly nurses. These women are usually older than trained nurses who enter maternity hospitals, and many of them have others depending upon them for their bread. When the bare fees and hospital board come to £15 15s.—a common figure—we may safely add £5 to £7 more for examination, books, appliances, and railway expenses. Yet we never hear a grumble from these women, and we certainly never hear of any attempt to make things easier for them.

To my mind this cry about £5 for examination and registration is one of the most feeble arguments which has been brought forward. There are exceptions to every rule, but we cannot mould things to meet the exceptions; we should work to meet the rules.

In Scotland, a favourite form of memorial is a bursary bearing the name of the person whose good deeds are to be commemorated and handed down to posterity. Judging from the extreme interest which has been taken in the condition of nurses' pockets it is only reasonable that nurses should look forward to seeing many of these useful helps—bearing well-known names—in full operation.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

E. A. STEVENSON.

Comments and Replies.

Correspondent, Clackmannan.—If the bedding and blankets are thoroughly stoved, and the latter subsequently washed, there should be no risk in using them again, only it is important to be certain that the stoving really is efficient. It is on record that a medical man, doubtful as to the efficiency of a certain system of stoving, sent a coat to be baked with an egg in one of the pockets, and when the coat was returned to him the consistency of the egg was found to be unchanged. Free exposure to fresh air is also desirable.

District Nurse.—"The Dogs' Medical Dictionary," published by Routledge and Co., price 5s., will give you full information as to the ailments of dogs. We can hear of no similar book relating to cats, but the Matron of the Animals' Hospital says: "Treat them as you would children."

Notices.

RULES FOR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

SOMETHING ABOUT OLD SISTERS.

We offer a prize of £1 ls. for the best paper of reminiscences entitled "Something About Old Sisters." The paper must deal with Sisters or Head Nurses in charge of wards before 1885—women who acquired their knowledge and skill by personal application rather than as the result of systematic instruction. The papers for this competition must not exceed 1,400 words, and must reach the Editor at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, Cavendish Square, London, W., on or before Saturday, March 12th, 1910.

THE PRETTIEST PATIENT.

We also offer a prize of 10s. for a photograph and description of "The Prettiest Patient," which must reach the Editor at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, Cavendish Square, London, W., on or before Saturday, March 19th, 1910.

The decision of the Editor in each case will be final.

OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

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