

the Pageant approaches. To buy them early will be most helpful to her.

We have been constantly asked, "Who is going to play Hygeia and the Spirit of Nursing and Science?"

In reply to this question we have pleasure in announcing that the part of the Goddess of Health will be impersonated by Miss Irene Fergusson; the Spirit of Nursing by Miss Audrey Campbell; and Science by Miss Winifred Bridger. All three ladies are admirably adapted for their respective parts, and are entering into the spirit of this symbolic Masque in a manner which must result in success. Hygeia will, of course, be dressed in white archaic Greek drapery, the Spirit in shimmering grey, and Science in an academic rose-coloured robe over black. A very charming trio who, we feel sure, will give the true interpretation to Miss Mollett's impressive lines.

Our Prize Competition.

We have pleasure in announcing that Miss Julia Hurlston, Sister-in-Charge, Muirfield Convalescent Home, Gullane, N.B., has won the 5s. Prize this week for her reply to the question: "How to Succeed as a Private Nurse," which we have pleasure in printing.

HOW TO SUCCEED AS A PRIVATE NURSE.

To be a successful private nurse it is necessary, in the first place, to obtain the best training, which should include three years' work in a general hospital, followed by experience in special branches—viz., maternity, fever, massage, and mental work. The general training must be taken first, as discipline and nursing etiquette are better acquired in a large general hospital than in a special one. The character of the nurse is developed by coming in contact with a greater variety of people; she learns self-control, adaptability, and the power of quiet observation, and is trained how to take notes and to report accurately what she has observed. She would also learn professional dignity, and last, but not least, how ignorant she still is, and the necessity for further training. A nurse intending to continue her work in general hospitals, either as a Matron or Sister, does not require further training in actual nursing, but should study administrative work, how to teach probationers, practically and theoretically, their work before she undertakes a position of responsibility; but the more a nurse can learn in special work before she takes up private nursing the better she will succeed, as many of the cases of illness she is called upon to nurse are not met with during a general hospital training.

Secondly, she must be a gentlewoman, absolutely conscientious, possessed of a cheerful, kindly, sympathetic nature, combined with firmness and tact. She should also be domesticated, a good reader and conversationalist, and able to play games. Gifted with these qualifications she should not find much difficulty in "fitting in" with the variety of patients, their friends, and servants; also the different doctors and nurses with whom her lot will be cast.

When her training is as complete as she can make it she should join a good Nursing Co-operative Society, from which she will probably get experience in the work of private nursing homes, which would be a help to her in learning some of the refinements of nursing, which are not taught in hospitals, and she would meet the same class of people that she might at any time be called upon to nurse in private houses. She would get into more intimate touch with the medical profession, and would look upon them as friends and colleagues, both working for the same object—viz., the restoration to health of the man or woman who is employing them. If the patient and doctor see that the nurse has done her part well they will be the first to express their appreciation, and she will find herself fairly started on the road leading to success, and will be asked by the same doctor to nurse again for him, and the patient will also name her to her friends. In this way she will make a good connection, and by co-operating with other nurses be able to help them also to succeed.

"Nothing succeeds like success."

This competition is evidently a subject of great interest to nurses, to judge from the very large number of replies received. The paper sent by Miss Elizabeth Barton is excellent, and gains honourable mention. We hope later to publish it on the usual terms.

From many of the replies something good is to be gathered.

Miss F. Sheppard says:—"A private nurse must have plenty of resources. She must be well educated, able to interest and amuse her patients by reading aloud, be musical, able to undertake a little secretarial work, and house-keeping if required on emergency."

Miss Emily Marshall is of opinion:—"To make a successful private nurse one needs strength of character, tact, and good, sound common sense added to training and skill. It does not do to take the groove of the hospital ward into the sick room. Each patient and household needs a separate and special study of their way of having things done, and by con-

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