

She must not have favourites amongst her nurses, and if a nurse does not come up to the standard required the Sister should see that she thoroughly understands when she has failed.

It is well for her to cultivate any talent she may possess outside her work, so that in her "off duty" time she may have other interests; in short, she should cultivate being "off duty" in mind as well as body—this will ensure the staff nurse being held responsible in the Sister's absence, and will train her to become capable and self-reliant.

Lastly, she should cultivate a sense of humour which will carry her through many things.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

Miss B. Naylor (Fordingbridge), Miss J. M. Stevens (Bristol), Miss L. Aronovich (Manchester), Miss E. Please (Dorking), Miss M. Sutton (Birkdale), Miss A. Phipps and Miss E. Marshall (London), and Miss Mackenzie (Edinburgh) receive honourable mention.

Miss B. Naylor mentions that a good disciplinarian is indispensable in ward management; the gift of imparting knowledge clearly and accurately is essential to the efficient training of nurses and probationers under her; in emergencies and rush of work level-headedness and promptness on the part of the Sister are invaluable; resourcefulness will be a help to the doctors and nurses she works for and with, and a comfort to her patients; to be tactful will help in a very large measure to secure happiness and a spirit of good will in her ward.

Miss J. M. Stevens takes it for granted that the nurse who aspires to become a Ward Sister is at least thoroughly well informed and up-to-date theoretically and practically on all points of her profession. She must also be keenly observant and possess a certain talent for organization and ability to command; given these essential qualities she needs to be possessed by a very whole-hearted enthusiasm for work and keenness for duty; there is nothing so inspiring or helpful, nothing so infectious. "Sister" should never lose her head or her temper, no matter what happens.

Both in reporting the patients' condition to the doctor and in instructing her nurses, the Ward Sister must express herself clearly and accurately; nurses often make serious mistakes through not having had concise and definite orders.

Miss L. Aronovich writes of the successful Ward Sister that her every action ought to inspire confidence, thereby transmitting confidence to her staff and, consequently, a feeling of security to her patients. It is also important

for her to have the knowledge to enable her to supervise intellectually and practically her domestic staff.

Adaptability is required to the same extent in a Sister of Wards as in a private nurse, for not only has she a constant stream of fresh patients and periodical changes of nurses, but also changes of house physicians and surgeons, and with them frequent changes of methods and treatment. Evenness of disposition must well be practised, and zeal and readiness always forthcoming to aid the medical staff in their adoption of pioneer treatment, and to this end accuracy is of paramount importance, since a Sister is often called upon to furnish data for the compilation of statistics.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK

Describe the common causes and symptoms of headaches, and how they can be relieved?

THE ISLA STEWART ORATION.

The *Administration Générale de l'Assistance publique à Paris* has officially appointed two *monitrices* from the Training School for Nurses attached to the Salpêtrière to attend the Isla Stewart Oration. Mlle. Gosselin and Mlle. Bordet will bring a message from M. André Mesureur, the *chef du cabinet*, who deeply regrets he cannot himself attend the Oration, as he holds the memory of the late Miss Isla Stewart in sincerest regard and gratitude, for her sympathy with, and kindness to the French pupils sent from the Salpêtrière School to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London. The four French pupils at present at St. Bartholomew's are to have permission to attend the Oration.

PRIVATE NURSES AND THE INSURANCE BILL.

What are Private Nurses doing to ascertain how the Insurance Bill will affect them? One thing is sure: that if they have to present their cards for stamping, to obtain 3d. weekly from their patients, no situation could be more intolerable for either nurse or employer; also nurses working on the co-operative system will have to pay a higher percentage for work than at present. Twenty years ago they could run their societies on $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but now that they are insured for accidents under the Workmen's Compensation Act there is little working capital left out of that sum, and no further tax can be paid for a second insurance.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)