

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

GIVE SOME HINTS HOW TO BE POPULAR AS A PRIVATE NURSE?

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Miss Lottie Nunnerley, Registered Nurses' Society, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., for her paper on the above subject.

PRIZE PAPER.

The private nurse should go forth to nurse people in their own homes with the firm intention of entering into the lives of each man, woman, or child to whom she is sent, really caring for him or her.

The nurse will find that she is left very much on her own responsibility, and in a great measure it rests with herself as to whether her career as a private nurse is a success or otherwise.

Adaptability to circumstances, cheerfulness, gentleness, sympathy, abundance of tact, and anxiety to give as little trouble as possible are essential points. The habits of order, punctuality, and strict obedience to the doctor's orders, acquired in hospital, are absolutely necessary to good nursing, but drop the "red tape," so unavoidable in institution work, but a cause of so much unhappiness among nurses and private patients, especially where two nurses are working together. For instance, what does it matter which nurse washes the patient as long as he is done at the hour which suits his comfort most? If the work falls a little heavier on one nurse than the other, there is always a way of making up for it between themselves, without it affecting the patient, and it is most necessary that the nurses should agree and be loyal one to the other.

The more valuable will her services be if she is amusing, well read, good at indoor games, and, above all, she should cultivate the art of reading aloud. Naturally some people are much more attractive than others, consequently more generally liked, and often the nurse deemed excellent at her work in hospital is a failure amongst private patients, as she lacks, perhaps, the qualities that appeal to them more; but the woman without natural charm can try to cultivate it, and, with a little perseverance, it is surprising how agreeable a person can become.

Gossiping is to be avoided. Be civil to and thoughtful of all fellow workers. This will result in consideration in return.

Win the whole house. This is the duty of a private nurse, and by so doing the nurse will more easily win and manage her patient. Relations are often trying, but it is often affection

which causes them to be so, but with tact they can be managed, and will generally give in to the opinions and suggestions of the nurse if they see she is doing her very best for the happiness and comfort of the patient.

Never talk of one patient to another; the world is very small, and it may lead to unpleasantness, and anything a patient tells a nurse should not be repeated to others in the house. Don't pour your troubles into a patient's ear; it often bores them; but be ready to listen to theirs, and give your sympathy. Interest them, if well enough, in all that goes on, and take an interest in their work or special talent, or whatever they care about most. Don't laugh at their fads, but try to do things in their way, and use their belongings with care.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention: Miss Gladys Tatham, Miss N. Windle Hunter, Miss Edith F. Moakes, Miss A. Pressly, Miss C. Cook, Miss F. A. F. Hayward, Miss N. Smith, Miss M. Power, Miss E. M. Pickard, Miss A. M. Cameron, Miss I. M. Cole, and Miss I. B. Cunningham.

Miss J. M. Stevens writes:—"A nurse going to a private case should remember that she is not going as a guest to an hotel, to order all things to suit her own liking, but as a most unwelcome visitor (in most cases) to a household overwhelmed with trouble and anxiety. She should remember that she is quite the last person in the house to be considered, and endeavour to upset things as little as possible."

Miss N. Windle Hunter remarks that a private nurse "should keep in touch with the news of the world, so that she can converse with her patient on other than nursing questions and ailments."

Miss Gladys Tatham, emphasising the point that a nurse must not *make* work in a household, or require a whole-time servant to attend to her various wants, mentions an experience in her own home, when "not only was the nurse extra trouble, not only did she requisition extra cushions for her chair at meal times, but she wanted the fowl-run moved."

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

What meals should be served in hospital wards daily; how, so that they reach the patient in an appetising form?

The Right Hon. R. C. Munro-Ferguson will ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Thursday, 16th inst., why the national organizations of Trained Nurses in England and Ireland have been refused direct representation on the Advisory Committees under the Insurance Act.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)