

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

DESCRIBE THE MOST UNUSUAL AND INTERESTING OBSTETRICAL CASE YOU HAVE NURSED.

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Miss B. Robinson, Lozell's Road, Birmingham, for her paper on the above subject.

### PRIZE PAPER.

I was called to a primipara at 3 a.m. one morning. The labour was uneventful, and there was nothing to cause anxiety until 15 minutes after delivery, when the patient suddenly became convulsed. Medical assistance was at once summoned, and the doctor arrived within 15 minutes. Bromide and chloral were administered by mouth, and as the convulsions continued about every five-and-twenty minutes, cupping was tried. The urine, on being tested, was found to be solid with albumen.

Both nourishment and drugs were given by rectum, as the patient was unable to swallow. A second doctor was called in in consultation, and everything possible was done to abate the symptoms, but the patient remained unconscious, the convulsions occurring fairly regularly about every 30 to 40 minutes, and the gravest apprehension were entertained for her life. Twenty-three convulsions occurred in all.

They ceased after the third day, but it was not until the tenth that consciousness returned. When it did the patient appeared to take up her life from the time preceding the first convulsion, and was evidently unaware that anything untoward had occurred. She was delighted with her baby, which was a weakly child, but was still living when the case was given up. As soon as she could be moved with safety the patient was sent to a hospital under the care of the doctor who was called in in consultation at the beginning of her illness. She made a good recovery, and after spending some weeks in a convalescent home, returned in apparently good health, and with the satisfactory feature that the urine was quite free from albumen.

This case of eclampsia was a most alarming one, as the onset of the convulsions was absolutely sudden and unexpected, and they were most severe, and the patient's condition most critical. Certainly it afforded a strong plea for the higher education of midwives, for in such cases three months' training is quite insufficient to give the knowledge, the assurance, and the power of skilled observation necessary. Yet any midwife may be confronted quite unexpectedly with a case of the kind when far from medical assistance, and have to act promptly in emergency.

### HONOURABLE MENTION.

Miss B. James, Miss Mackenzie, Miss O'Brien, Miss P. Thompson.

### QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

What are the principal requisites in the care of rachitic children?

## THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Matrons' Council will be held on Friday, January 31st, at the Offices, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Miss M. Heather Bigg, President, will be in the chair.

The Business Meeting is called for 3.30 p.m. Tea will be at 4.30, and at 5.15 Dr. Helen Boyle will give an address on Mental Nursing. It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend, as the address will certainly be very instructive.

Matrons wishing to join the Council should obtain an Application Form from Miss M. Mollett, Hon. Secretary, from 431, Oxford Street, London, W. The annual subscription is 5s.

## PENSIONS THE ONLY REMEDY.

We regret to see Queen's Nurses held up *in formâ pauperis* by the unprofessional foreign editor of Macmillan's pseudo-nursing paper. Surely some other form of advertisement for this publication could be found which would not hurt the susceptibilities of a very honourable body of trained nurses.

We cannot believe that the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute can approve of this method of reflecting upon their management. No Queen's Nurse should be in want. That is a reflection upon the memory of the late royal Founder of the Institute, and we hope that the Council will enquire into this matter, and take steps to protect Queen's Nurses from such undesirable publicity and patronage.

We claim that the Queen's Nurses should be paid a salary from which they can save, and, further, that a Pension Scheme in connection with the Institute should be organized.

We cannot believe that the Queen's Nurses are in such extremity that the "benevolence" of the unprofessional nursing press, for which they are, of course, to pay themselves, must be resorted to for their salvation. Let the Queen's Superintendents urge the just demand for pensions upon the Council of the Institute.

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