

but there was no examination on those, I am sorry to say. I have subscribed to your paper just two years, and always enjoy reading it.—Yours truly,

A LOVER OF NURSING.

[This letter is typical of many which we receive, and, therefore, we insert it in full. If the writer's health and strength is good she is not too old to commence training. She will find scores of applications at every Hospital for every vacancy. Her best plan would be to enter as a Paying Probationer at St. Bartholomew's, Guy's, or the Middlesex, in the hope of obtaining in time a post on the regular Staff as a Paid Probationer.—ED.]

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I am earnestly desirous of taking up Nursing as a life-work, and would feel grateful if you would furnish me with all particulars regarding my probable duties. I have never done any Nursing beyond to those immediately connected with me. I am twenty-seven years of age; have travelled abroad for the last ten years. If I might have a choice, I would prefer to be in a Woman's Ward or a children's. Thanking you in anticipation.—Yours faithfully,

K. C. M.

[This again exemplifies a very frequent style of letters received by us. The writer might follow the advice given above, or try for a vacancy as a Paying Probationer at the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street, W.C. She can only discover her probable duties by actual experience, and once in a Hospital the last thing left to her would be a "choice" of any kind.—ED.]

"SUGGESTIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF NURSING IN VICTORIA," BY MRS. E. E. MORRIS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Dear Sir,—With reference to the paragraph headed "Pension Fund," on page 150 of your issue of the 26th March last, permit me to point out that the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses provides for all Nurses working in the Colonies, and that very many Indian and Colonial Nurses do at the present time belong to the Fund.

I would also take this opportunity of stating that, although non-certificated Private Nurses unconnected with any Association are not eligible to join for sick pay, *any Nurse* attached to an Institution, and *all* Nurses belonging to the Royal British Nurses' Association, are eligible for sick pay; indeed, many of the latter have already joined.

I shall feel much obliged if you will insert this letter in your next issue.—Yours faithfully,

EDWARD T. CLIFFORD, Manager.

THE "GIVE AND TAKE" POLICY.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—Abstaining from offering any definition of the conventional word "lady," it seems perfectly clear that your correspondent, "One of the Rank," has scarcely been able to grasp the proper drift of Mrs. Taylor's message to us. For this writer has, I take it, only spoken out her ideas—told us what has been done, not what should be done. And, be it remembered, "if we had not been cudgelled and bruised for centuries by this rough bludgeon of social convention, we should not now be so sensitive as we are to the effect of our actions upon our neighbours, nor so ready for a social life in the future which shall be *superior to law*." Can any one of my Nursing sisters come forward and gainsay this seeming bold statement?

When we remember how little margin, comparatively speaking, our nursing duties leave for study, &c., "Obstetrica," Miss Landale and Mrs. Taylor are to be congratulated upon their achievements. Nor should we forget the goodly number of articles contributed by Mr. Editor and a host of other

writers, right on until now, since the *Nursing Record* came into existence. But why should we not have many more essays? And if we should give each other a good hiding betimes, what then? Surely it were better to fight the matter out in a hand to hand battle for the truth than to fold our arms and sit inactive by the wayside grumbling at others.

Again, the *fac-simile* Post-Card Competition, what about that? Herein, I reckon, is a splendid incentive to take "heart of grace" to those of your readers who may feel disposed to prosecute a study in graphology. But whither, pray, has "Our Album" gone?

"Man in a healthy state," says Edward Carpenter. "does not act for himself alone, practically cannot do so. Nor does he talk *cant* about 'serving his neighbours,' &c. But he simply acts for them as well as himself, because they are part and parcel of his life, bone of his bone, and flesh of his flesh; and in doing so he enters into a wider life, finds a more perfect pleasure, and becomes more really a man than ever before. Every man contains in himself the elements of all the rest of humanity. . . . Some time or other to every man must come the consciousness of this vaster life."—Yours, &c.,

PHILOSOPHER.

COMPETITIVE PRIZE ESSAY. TWENTY-FOURTH COMPETITION.

A Book or Books of the value of One Guinea will be awarded for an Essay upon a subject to be announced next week.

RULES.

1.—Contributions to be sent to the Editor, at the office of THE NURSING RECORD, addressed as follows:—"Prize Essay Competition, THE NURSING RECORD, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C."

2.—Manuscript must be written distinctly in ink and on one side of the paper only, upon not less than 24 nor more than 48 pages of ordinary-sized ruled sermon paper. The pages must be numbered and fastened together.

3.—The real and full name and address (stating whether Miss or Mrs., of the Competitor must be inscribed on the back of each contribution, and notification of which Hospital or Institution the Competitor has been or is attached to.

4.—Trained Nurses or those personally associated with Nursing work only allowed to compete.

Winners in previous Competitions are permitted to compete, but in case of a "tie" the prize would be awarded to the Competitor who has not secured a prize before.

The decision of the Prize Essay Editor to be final, and any infringement of the above Rules will be considered a disqualification.

NOTICE.—The Prize Essay Editor will not undertake to return MSS. unless accompanied with a sufficiently stamped addressed envelope; and in no case will he be responsible for any loss of same during transmission, &c. In no case must manuscripts be rolled up when sent by post; they must be folded.

— NOTICES. —

Communications relating to the Literary Department, Books, Pamphlets, &c., for Review, &c., must be addressed to the Editor of the NURSING RECORD, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. The Editor will not undertake to return rejected MSS. unless accompanied with a sufficiently stamped addressed envelope.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only, and give their real names and addresses, not necessarily as signatures to their letters, but as a guarantee of good faith. Unless this rule be strictly adhered to, no notice will be taken of such communications.

Communications from all parts of the country are cordially invited, and liberal arrangements are made for reprints of original articles, and for such illustrations as serve to increase their value or interest. Reports of Nursing Vacancies, Appointments, Meetings of Societies, &c., and Newspapers, &c., containing (marked) accounts of matters of local or personal interest or importance, will be gladly received. Correspondence upon all subjects associated with Nursing specially invited.

The NURSING RECORD is published every Thursday, and can be obtained at Messrs. W. H. Smith & Son's Railway Bookstalls, and of the principal Newsagents in London and the Provinces.

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