

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention:—Mrs. Farthing, Miss Grace A. Tomson, Miss L. Young, Miss Catherine Wright, Miss M. Barnes, Miss P. James.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

What are the probable causes of otorrhœa, and how would you nurse such a case? What complications might arise, and how would you recognise them?

DR. ADDISON INTRODUCES GOVERNMENT BILL FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

On Thursday, November 6th, Dr. Addison, Minister of Health, introduced, without explanation, the Government Bill for the State Registration of Nurses into the House of Commons. As we go to press the printed Bill is not on sale, but it has been announced in the Press that the Bill has been drafted after a number of conferences which have taken place between the Ministry of Health and various nursing associations, and that the Bill provides for a professional council to supervise the standards of training and to take charge of the registration of nurses. It is expected that the second reading will be taken at an early date.

THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSO- CIATION AND THE NURSING PAGEANT.

We learn that it is probable that the Royal British Nurses' Association—the only Royal Chartered Corporation of Women in the Empire—will organise a Pageant of Nursing History early in the New Year, should the Nurses' Registration Bill pass into law this Session. And that this interesting piece of work may be carried out by the Consultative Committee, formed of delegates from the affiliated Nurses' Organisations, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has placed at the disposal of the Royal British Nurses' Association the text (which is copyright) of the "Pageant and Masque on the Evolution of Trained Nursing, and the Right of Life to Health," created and designed by her, and for which Miss Mollett wrote the words in fine heroic English. This Pageant was presented at the Connaught Rooms, London, on February 18th, 1911, and was described by Lord Ampthill, the Patron (Chairman of the Central Committee), as "the most poetic Procession he had ever seen."

The Pageant consists of five Processions:—

1. Procession of Immortals, led by Hygiea, Goddess of Health.
2. Procession of Saintly Women and the Nursing Orders.
3. Procession of Matrons, preceded by a banner, inscribed "Education."
4. Procession of Nurses, preceded by a banner, inscribed "Nursing and the Community."
5. State Registration Procession. Banner inscribed "State Registration" and "We Want Legal Status."

The Pageant of 1919 will differ somewhat from that of 1911, but as yet the details have not been considered. Much water has flowed under London Bridge in the past eight years, and Nursing History must be brought up to date.

COVERING.

The assistant secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd., stated in *The Lancet* of October 11 that she could see no reason why the nurse-anæsthetist should not become equally expert both in theory and practice as the medical officer," and that "in France it was the general opinion of the surgeons that the nurse was reliable—in fact, often more reliable than the available men anæsthetists."

Mr. Dudley W. Buxton, F.R.C.S., the eminent anæsthetist, expresses the opinion in *The Lancet* of October 18 that:—

There is an aspect of this subject which your leading article of September 27th does not envisage. To give a nurse the charge of the anæsthetic is to commit the offence of "covering." The General Medical Council has on more than one occasion visited with exemplary punishment medical practitioners who have administered anæsthetics for operations undertaken by unregistered persons, whether these assumed the rôle of a surgeon or a dentist. Presumably the converse—i.e., for a qualified person to seek the aid of an unqualified one to act as anæsthetist—is equally reprehensible. Such a procedure is allowed in cases of emergency when no qualified man is accessible, but this exception does not invalidate the law's contention that an act of covering is an indictable offence. It may be urged that in the practice of obstetrics a nurse is commonly called upon to assist with the anæsthetic, but even here the act is illegal, although perhaps condoned by custom, since an element of emergency arises in such cases and the medical attendant usually anæsthetises the patient, although he may allow the nurse to "carry on."

In present circumstances, committing the anæsthetic to a nurse, however highly trained, is to admit the principle of unqualified practice. This leads to a very wide door being opened to unqualified practice by not only highly trained nurses, but

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