

Miss M. Cullen says:—"Quietness is essential. Ward shoes with rubber heels should be worn; a dress that does not rustle; and another thing which is very disturbing to wakeful patients or a light sleeper is to hear nurses talking or whispering. . . . Sleep is more valuable than anything, and it is not good nursing to wake a patient for treatment unless specially directed to do so. . . . One other most essential thing is the care required in administering drugs, sleeping draughts, &c. All prescriptions must be plainly written; and a nurse must understand what is being given, and the labels on bottles be carefully read. Injections of morphia or atropine must be checked by an experienced person."

#### HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention:—Miss Ména M. G. Bielby, Miss M. Cullen, Miss K. Matthews, and Miss Beatrice Allbutt.

#### QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

What are varicose veins? How are they caused and how treated?

### NURSING ECHOES.

In spite of the rain, the Final for the Ross Cup was competed for with spirit by the lawn tennis teams from the North-Eastern Hospital (the holders) and from the Highwood Hospital, Brentwood, at the Park Hospital, Hither Green. The Cup was given by the Matrons of the Metropolitan Asylums Board Institutions for competition among their staffs, and many of them were present to watch the play. The result of the match was that the North-Eastern won the Cup by four sets to one, and it was presented by the Chairman of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, Mr. Eichkoff, to Staff Nurse Reid. He said he was present to show the interest the Board took in all which concerned the welfare of the nurses. He said some nice things and thanked the Matrons, especially Miss Balsillie, for their hospitality.

Each member of the winning team received a miniature cup for herself, and competitors and guests greatly enjoyed the delicious tea provided.

The Metropolitan Asylums Board have increased the hours of duty of the nursing staffs in their hospitals from the 48 a week adopted during the war, to 55 in the case of sisters, 58 for staff nurses, assistant nurses, and senior probationers, and 60½ for night nurses.

Salaries have been increased from £59-£65 to £76-£80 for sisters, and from £44-£50 to £52-£58 for staff nurses.

The question of whether or no nurses housed in hospitals are entitled to votes for members of Parliament is one which should be settled. At present some Registration Officers allow the enfranchisement of such workers, others turn them down. At the last election nurses working on exactly the same basis voted or were prevented voting at the pleasure of these officers. Personally, we do not think resident nurses can claim a Parliamentary vote, but it is time the law provided that they should possess one. The following conversation proves how necessary it is that the law should be made clear in this connection.

At Spilsby, Lincs., the Registration Officer called attention at a meeting to the fact that the name of a nurse at the Spilsby Cottage Hospital appeared on the Parliamentary list for Hundleby, and he inquired what she occupied.

Mr. W. V. Armstrong: Furnished rooms in lieu of salary.

The Registration Officer: I am a bit doubtful about that.

Mr. N. Knowles, the overseer: The vote was allowed to her predecessor.

Mr. W. V. Armstrong: I believe these nurses have been on ever since the Act was passed.

The Registration Officer: Has she the exclusive control over her room?—I rather doubt that.

It was stated that the matron was on the register.

The Registration Officer: But I do not think the nurses occupy these rooms separately as a dwelling house, and the facts are probably different as regards the matron. As the nurse is already on I cannot take her off this time, but I think the overseer ought to take her off next time, and if she thinks she is entitled she had better make a claim, and then we can go into the matter. It is all a question as to whether nurses have exclusive control over their rooms. If they are under discipline and their rooms can be shut up their position is not consistent with that of a person who has a dwelling-house in the ordinary way.

The overseer mentioned that a nurse at Spilsby Workhouse was also on the list, and the Registration Officer asked him to ascertain the full facts of each case for necessary action at the next Court.

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