

OPENINGS FOR REGISTERED NURSES.

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THE SCHOOL MATRON.

The School Matron must be a practical woman with a fund of patience and sympathy without sentimentality, a clear head, and unbounded energy. Of late years, more and more women have been recruited for this post which offers many attractions without the necessity of academic qualification. The practical woman will find in it a life which is full of interest and absolutely free from boredom. The long holidays, naturally, limit this type of work to those who have homes to go to during eight weeks in the summer and three and four weeks respectively at Easter and Christmas, or who have sufficient private income to maintain themselves during such periods, but given these advantages it is an occupation which has often an irresistible appeal. Many schools differ to a certain extent in the matter of pay. Salaries vary from £70 per annum upwards.

In the case of a boys' school, her work consists of serving the meals in the dining-hall, looking after the boys' clothes and general health, possibly supervising the dormitory maids, packing and unpacking the boys' trunks, and holding herself responsible for the washing, as well as nursing cases which are not sufficiently serious to go to the sanatorium. In some boys' schools the uniform of the Matron is a white overall and a hospital nurse's cap.

The supervision of the house linen is perhaps the most outstanding of the Matron's responsibilities. She would give out the towels, sheets, table-cloths and curtains which are required, would check, sort and place them away in the cupboards, and supervise the necessary mending by the sewing maids.

She must also be responsible for the outgoing wash, and although in general the pupils see to their own washing and draw up their own lists, she will sort the clothes on their return, and be responsible for the checking and placing of them in the various dormitories.

The School Matron is expected to see that everything is prepared for the boys before they make their appearance at the beginning of the term. She usually arrives at the school about a week before the scheduled time. This is very necessary for, with the rush of boys, her responsibilities as regards the contents of trunk and suit-case begin in earnest. She must see that the clothes are checked with the regulation lists, and that each boy is fully equipped. On afternoons when the boys are in the playing fields she must always be accessible in case of accidents, and her first-aid box, which is always at hand, is not infrequently called into requisition for cuts, bruises, sprains, and tumbles.

The School Matron, if a trained nurse, presides over the school hospital, the Matron's bedroom being next to the sick rooms.

It is the custom in some schools to take the boys' temperatures every evening for two or three weeks after the Christmas holidays, so as to check a possible epidemic, and this represents another of the Matron's duties.

The post of School Matron is a very pleasant one. Her off-duty times may vary, but she is generally free for at least two hours each day, except in cases of sickness, and every second Sunday afternoon she may count her own from two o'clock.

A Matron of the educated classes would probably include among her friends the members of the staff and would attend the school concerts and entertainments, while she would be called upon to play a very important part in the preparation of fancy and stage dresses for school parties.

(To be continued.)

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE RESERVE.

The Matron-in-Chief reminds all enrolled members of the Permanent Reserve that their Annual Report forms should be completed and forwarded to the War Office as early as possible in the New Year. At the same time the Matron-in-Chief takes the opportunity of thanking the members for the promptness with which they responded to last year's request.

Members who are at present unemployed and willing to accept temporary duty in a Military Hospital at Home for at least six months, should communicate with the Matron-in-Chief at the War Office in order that they may be notified as vacancies occur.

It will be appreciated that the experience thus gained is of inestimable value.

The Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S., sends all members best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

THE WRONG BABY.

An amazing mistake, which seems almost incredible, was made by a mother who took from a Liverpool hospital a baby, aged two, wrongly handed over to her as her own child, and kept him for ten days before she discovered her mistake, mainly owing to the fact that the child's elder brother, aged 3½ years, refused to recognise him, or play with him. Finally, she returned to the hospital and asked if a mistake had been made, and, as she did so, her own child ran up to her, calling "Mummie."

A change of labels when the child was transferred from one institution to another is thought to be the cause of the exchange of children.

It not infrequently happens that members of the public think that the work of nurses is easy, but it should be recognised that it is only by ceaseless vigilance on their part that the work in hospital wards runs so smoothly, and that accidents so seldom occur. They are constantly dealing with grave matters, and were this vigilance relaxed even temporarily the results might be disastrous.

LEGAL MATTERS.

Not prepared to go into a home

At the West London Police Court recently Doris Kirkham, aged 21, a probationer nurse at Croydon Mental Hospital, was charged with stealing two pairs of stockings, valued at about £1, from Messrs. Bourne & Hollingsworth, Oxford Street, W.

Mr. F. Freke Palmer, who prosecuted, said that she had deposited some of the articles she had taken from some stores, on another occasion, in a cloakroom.

Answering the magistrate, she said she was not prepared to go into a home, and was sentenced to two months' imprisonment in the second division.

THE HEALTH OF THE SCHOOL CHILD.

The Annual Report of Sir George Newman, Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education, on "The Health of the School Child" for the year 1927, is now published (H.M. Stationery Office, 1/6).

1928-1929.

Time waits for none, and gloomy '28
Betakes him where the other dead years wait,
Some who had friends among them see him go
Without regret. Haply, relief they know!

So thou art welcome little '29,
Odd numbers carry luck, 'tis said, and thine
Lies in the chance to renovate and cure
Much thy forerunner saw the world endure!

C. B. M.

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