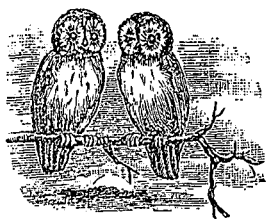


Matrons in Council.

WHAT IS A TRAINED NURSE?

QUESTION 6.—*What form of Certificate should a Nurse receive?*



MADAM,—In almost all Hospitals, Nurses, after a certain term of training, receive a certificate of efficiency. The term of training varies according to the training school, as does also the form and even the name of the certificate. In America it is called a

diploma, and is obtained in many instances after two years' work under Nurses of only two years' experience. In some Hospitals in London also it is given for two years, and alas! sometimes even now for only one year's training. In many cases too, the certificate is supposed to link the Nurse for life with strong ties of gratitude, obedience and loyalty to the Hospital from which she obtained it. It does not always seem to be quite fully understood that certificates are only responsible for that which has been done, and their responsibility ceases on the date they are given.

I do not wish to infer that there should be no further mutual interest between the Nurse and her training school, but only that the training school cannot continue to be responsible for the Nurse's conduct or nursing; nor do I think it fair to the Nurse that the certificate should be withheld beyond the specified time, and only given when the Nurse finally leaves the Hospital.

As to the form of the certificate, it ought, I think, to state the length of time served by the Nurse in the training school, and to express in plain terms that her conduct and work were satisfactory during that time, and it should be signed by the treasurer, the medical and surgical instructors, the examiners, and the matron. The terms should not be eulogistic, but merely state that the Nurse was satisfactory. The excellence of Nurses' individual work could be classified later by the Matron.—Yours, etc.,

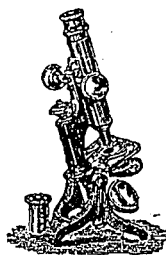
ISLA STEWART,
*Registered Nurse. Matron & Superintendent
of Nursing, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.*

MADAM,—This question is a most important one. The Nurse's Certificate is to her what the doctor's diploma or degree is to him, and it is quite as necessary for her as for him that the document should be both complete and satisfactory. At present, every Hospital gives a different Certificate, and in different words, so that no comparison is possible between them. So the first thing we want is to have some uniformity in these documents; they should certify to facts and not express the private and possibly prejudiced opinion of any official. This seems to me the great fault of most of the Certificates I have seen; some of them resemble the "character" of a domestic servant, for they describe the Nurse's morals and her manners and her methods of work, and say little or nothing of how she has been trained; others say her conduct has been "excellent" or "good," and that she has served for so many years in the Hospital; or others say that she has passed this examination or that, but make no comment upon her character. Surely both efficiency and conduct should be separately testified to, but on some

THE MATRON

Medical Matters.

RECURRENT OPERATIONS.



In an American contemporary there has recently been reported the case of a patient, upon whom the operation of lithotomy had been successfully performed no less than six times, and as the patient is now only nineteen years old, his prospects for the future can only be regarded as somewhat monotonous.

The first operation was done in infancy, the second at about three, the third at about five, the fourth at nine, and the fifth at fourteen years of age. As, at the recent operation, a large stone was extracted, and, according to our contemporary, about sixty smaller stones were washed out, the patient would almost seem to have been wise in choosing America to be born and to live in.

DRAINAGE HOLES.

One of the most difficult sequences of abdominal operations is the formation of sinuses after the removal of a drainage tube. These not only cause inconvenience, but sometimes actual danger to the patient, inasmuch as they tend to favour the occurrence of hernia. A French surgeon has recently proposed a method, and it has been quoted in a London medical contemporary, as though the suggestion were quite novel, that, at the time of the operation, stitches should be placed at the site of drainage and left untied, being tightened as soon as the tube is removed, and thus affording a chance of complete union. The method has for some years been employed by specialists in this country, in cases in which it was probable that drainage would be necessary for several days. As as rule, the tube can be removed within forty-eight or sixty hours, and then the wound will heal naturally without assistance.

NEW DANGERS.

A contemporary which devotes itself to scraps of science has announced a fact with which most medical men are familiar, but which, in its present form, may be somewhat startling news to the general public. It is to the effect that the seeds of consumption are found in abundance in the dust collected not only on the floors, but on the walls and the seats of railways carriages. Figures are given which may excite a very considerable amount of alarm amongst the uninitiated and the nervous, such, for example, as the following:—"The average passenger who usually has (in the opinion of our contemporary) at least half a compartment to himself, say three thousand square

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