Nursing exams were very testing

At a time of increasing demand for trained nurses, it is distressing to hear of conditions under which at least 400 final year students were examined in Sydney recently.

The conditions combined to disturb, dishearten and completely disrupt a group of conscientious young women, who had completed three years of concentrated study and devoted work.

I refer to the State Finals for Nurses' Registration held on January 9.

Here is a group of dedicated and professional young women, who are seeking to equip themselves to perform a vital service to the public.

But, from the facts as reported, I am convinced that the examination conditions on this occasion made it impossible for them to do them justice on this the examination of their course.

The examination, which cost the nurses $10, was conducted in a noisy and overcrowded environment, the discomfort of which was increased by the fact that, in both the two papers, serious printing errors had to be explained by supervisors.

In Paper 1, one whole page was omitted in many examination papers.

Further, corrections had to be made, necessitating two interruptions (one following consultation with the Nurses' Registration Board).

In Paper 2, three questions had to be deleted by students. Further, a key had to be explained, as another error had been made in printing.

The numbering of questions 77, 78 and 79 was duplicated. Students were asked to correct these errors on their own examination papers.

Owing to poor acoustics in the hall, many oral explanations were far from clear; instructions written on the blackboard were hidden by pillars.

I am led to understand that problems in other centres such as Canberra, were accentuated by distance.

There must be many of these young women and their parents who are disturbed at the present time about this situation.

—PERPLEXED PARENT.

Write to the Editor, Daily Telegraph, Box 4245, GPO, Sydney. Keep letters as brief as possible.