

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—I think many Matrons are feeling that the tendency of the examinations of nurses in this country at the present day is to be far too theoretical. A certain amount of theoretical knowledge must be insisted on, as a solid foundation, but it is a means, not an end, and should therefore be of an elementary character, though thorough as far as it goes. But, so long as the examinations of nurses are conducted almost exclusively by medical men, they must be conducted mainly on theoretical lines, for the medical profession have not the experience of practical nursing details to enable them to examine the knowledge of pupils in this direction. Surely the time has come when in the examination of nurses the practical part should be conducted by members of their own profession. Only in this way can we counteract the tendency to become theoretically rather than practically brilliant. I believe this to be the solution of the tendency to give undue value to theoretical knowledge deplored by some.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

MATRON.

#### FLOGGING IN THE NAVY.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—It is a cherished official illusion that flogging no longer exists in the British Navy; yet, as a result of Mr. Swift MacNeill's recent questions in Parliament, the Lords of the Admiralty have been compelled to admit that "boys" (by which is meant young men up to the age of eighteen) are publicly birched or caned for all sorts of offences, serious or trivial, against naval discipline. This being so, it is amusing to find Mr. Lee taking refuge in the quibble that the punishment is not one of "flogging." If a youth who receives twenty-four cuts of the birch on his bare back, in the presence of all his companions, is not flogged, one would like to know wherein "flogging" consists! Mr. Lee would presumably restrict the term to the use of the cat. But, in that case, what about the public schools, where it has always been customary to speak of the boys being "flogged"? Are we to understand that headmasters use the cat upon their pupils? But if a "birching" and a "flogging" are synonymous terms at Eton and Harrow, how can the advocates of these naval punishments pretend that there is no "flogging" in the Navy, while in the same breath they are assuring the public that sailor lads are only punished in precisely the same way as gentlemen's sons at public schools? The truth, of course, is that the word "flogging" (like "whipping") is a general term for all kinds of castigation, and is quite properly applied to corporal punishment as still inflicted on board His Majesty's ships.

In all other respects the comparison of naval floggings with public-school floggings is ridiculous. If any headmaster were to flog a public-school boy as severely as the ship's policeman flogs these unfortunate young sailors, he would be in danger of prosecution or dismissal.

I am, yours faithfully,

JOSEPH COLLINSON.

Humanitarian League.

## Comments and Replies.

*Enquirer.*—The International Congress of Women in Berlin opens on June 13th. The Nursing Session in the Congress is on the morning of Thursday, June 16th. The meetings of the International Council of Nurses will be held in a hall in the Victoria Lyceum in Potsdamer Strasse on June 17th, when reports will be received from affiliated countries on (a) Legislation effected for Trained Nurses; (b) Education, including the definition of a curriculum of education, and a minimum standard qualifying for registration as a trained nurse. You will be welcome as a visitor, but only members of the Council or of affiliated societies are entitled to vote.

*Ward Sister.*—Lumbar puncture has been practised in cases of meningitis since 1890. It was originally introduced by Dr. Quincke as a means of relieving intracranial pressure in cases of acute tuberculous meningitis. It is now employed both as an aid to diagnosis and for purposes of treatment.

*Two Friends.*—Lowestoft is a very pleasant place in which to spend a summer holiday. It is easily accessible from town, and there is much of interest, not only in the town itself, with its fish market and fishing fleet, and, to a lover of china, its china shops, but also many excursions can be made by rail and steamer; to Norwich with its interesting cathedral, to the Broads, to Cromer, Yarmouth, Southwold, and many other places. There is an excellent reading-room on the pier, where all the London papers can be seen.

*Miss Edwards.*—We should advise you to consult a medical man.

*Miss E. Templeman.*—The serges you refer to are the "Royal Admiralty Serges" supplied by Mr. James Beattie, Royal Admiralty Serge Warehouse, 73a to 78, Victoria Street, Wolverhampton. We think you cannot fail to be pleased with the patterns if you send for them.

## Notices.

### THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

All those desirous of helping on the important movement of this Society to obtain a Bill providing for the legal registration of trained nurses will find an application form on page vii., or can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. Secretary, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

### CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Editor will at all times be pleased to consider articles of a suitable nature for insertion in this journal—those on practical nursing are specially invited. The Editor will also be pleased to receive paragraphs, such as items of nursing news, results of nurses' examinations, new appointments, reports of hospital functions, also letters on questions of interest to nurses, and newspapers marked with reports of matters of professional interest.

Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

### OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page viii.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)