

being trained. Any such assumption is a sham, and should be put a stop to. I have a friend who was actually invited to pay £10 for "training" in a pay hospital; she was, of course, to give her time, and for a miserable pittance to work for this so-called Home, as a private nurse, a confiding public to pay £2 2s. a week for her services. Now this is a very grave scandal in more ways than one, as the patients in this Home pay heavy fees, sometimes upwards of £10 10s. a week, for skilled nursing, and do not expect to be utilised as material for the training of the unskilled. I enclose you papers which will corroborate what I write. The proprietors of this Nursing Home are, of course, bitterly antagonistic to State Registration of Nurses. That is natural, as much of their ill-gotten gains would cease to flow into their coffers, to keep up a splendid establishment not far away, if they had to employ efficient, well-trained nurses to attend on their patients, and pay them accordingly. Why should not some of these proprietors be called upon to give evidence before the Select Committee?

Yours,

A Co-op. NURSE.

NURSING EXAMINERS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Your report of the meeting of the Central Midwives' Board is sad reading, and it seems almost incredible in these days that any medical man should claim that he is competent to examine a nursing or midwifery candidate in practical nursing and domestic details. How many medical men can wash a baby, dress it skilfully, nurse and comfort it? I don't know them if they exist. But the whole midwife question is a hopeless muddle, because sooner or later the midwife must develop into the well-trained obstetric nurse, and in the doing it there will be strife.—Yours truly,

L. O. S.

FLOGGING IN THE NAVY.

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

MADAM,—Very few people are aware of the frequency and severity of the floggings inflicted on boys and young men in the Royal Navy for the most trivial offences. The cane and birch are freely used, and those under eighteen years of age caught smoking, even, are subjected to the disgusting and loathsome indignity of a flogging. The following account given to the Press by a well-known journalist during the last naval manoeuvres should convince those who believe there is no flogging in the British Navy:—"The prisoner who has been smoking comes forward, hitches his pants, and throws himself across the gun upon his stomach; his head hangs down one side, his feet on the other. A couple of men kneel by his head and take a wrist and an ankle each and draw them together so that the trousers fit very taut in the most prominent place. The corporal throws himself into a striking attitude. Evidently this is no child's play. Swish! That boy would give every cigarette in his possession to be able to rub the spot where the cane has fallen; but he can't rub, he can only writhe and wait for the next. The corporal is in no hurry. The first stroke has been a sort of overhead and downward cut. This second one—whew!—swish! It comes underhand and upwards," &c.

The supporters of such abominable and degrading

brutality have yet to prove its necessity. If any result is likely to follow this kind of treatment it will most assuredly be the production of an almost overwhelming desire for revenge against the injustice and cowardice of the indiscretion that prompts its infliction; for the simple reason that the debasing punishment is not proportionate to the offences for which it is ordered.

Yours, &c.,

WALTER BANNERMAN.

Ravenswood, Crosshill, Glasgow.

Comments and Replies.

Truth.—A tablespoonful of fluid is generally reckoned as half a fluid ounce by nurses.

Constant Reader.—The simplest and cheapest method of curing the child of "nits" is to have its head shaved, and then kept very clean and avoid fresh infection. If the hair cannot be cut off, it should be well washed with spirits of wine, which soaks off the nits, then washed with a sublimate of mercury lotion, which any chemist will supply for the purpose, and finally washed thoroughly with soap and hot water. This should be repeated every night until the hair is perfectly clear and the child shows no irritation of the scalp.

Sister C.—We consider the rule that the Sister and Staff Nurse of a ward should not be off duty at the same time an excellent one. Too much hob-nobbing between the Sister and her subordinates leads to lax discipline in the ward.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Annual Report, 1903-04, is now ready. All those interested in the efficient organisation of nursing should procure it from the Hon. Secretary, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W. Six copies, post free, 7d., or one copy 1½d. Gives brief review of the history of State Registration of Nurses.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Those of our readers who wish for extra copies of the issue containing the report of the International Congress of Women at Berlin, and also of this and next week's issues, containing official reports of the meeting of the International Council of Nurses, should order them at once from the Manager, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 11, Adam Street, Strand, W.C., or through their newsagents, as the supply is sometimes less than the demand.

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.

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