

COUNTY NURSING ASSOCIATIONS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I think that many of us who have been somewhat exercised in our minds over the County Nursing Associations will welcome Miss Hughes' statement that there is no pretence at assuming that these women are trained nurses. "They are registered midwives with first-aid knowledge." If the public could but grasp this fact, we should have no difficulty then in showing that no scheme for the registration of trained nurses will injuriously affect them. The people who are injuriously affected at present seem to me to be the nurses who have received an adequate education, for it is constantly asserted that they will be wronging a useful class of workers by attempting to establish standards of education for themselves. Miss Hughes puts the matter on a right basis, and shows that the County nurses can be registered as midwives, which they are, and they have, therefore, no sort of grievance. The only pity is that these County Associations were ever given the name of *Nursing Associations*. It seems to me very misleading. Any one called "nurse," and attending the sick, is considered to be a *trained nurse* by the majority of people: hence the complications.—I am, dear Madam, yours faithfully,
TRAINED NURSE.

A TRUE STORY.

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

DEAR MADAM,—It was with the feeling of utter unbelief that I read the tale of the Patient, Nurse (!), Novel and Cigarette in the issue of October 15th. But, being "vouched for," I could but conclude it as the truth. I hardly think this "nurse" had done three years' or more, work in a training-school. Her conduct is more like what a very bad specimen of the semi-trained, and consequently uninterested and perhaps uneducated, woman might arrive at when away from any Matron's tuition. The only other alternative is that she was qualified to enter, as inmate, an asylum for the insane. It seems to me, the longer one is in hospital, the more one comes in close contact with the marvellous workings of the human body (to say nothing of the human soul), the more one is awed by the sudden cessation of the human machinery. I have seen and known not a few nurses, in all stages of training, and have only once found it needful, or known other people find it needful, to reprimand a nurse for levity at the bedside of a dead or dying patient. Even she, I feel sure, would be horrified if the above conduct were attributed to her. It is sincerely to be hoped that, if ever in the future a State Registered nurse develops such alarming symptoms, she will be struck off the roll, and politely and kindly advised to consult a specialist for mental diseases.—Yours truly,
A. SISTER.

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

MADAM,—The inhuman monster whose callous reply to her patient you reported last week should not be permitted to nurse the sick. Such a reply was enough to kill a dangerously-ill person on the spot. How do such women get into our houses? There must be something wrong somewhere.

A CLUB WOMAN.

[At present, indifferently-trained nurses are a commercial asset to unscrupulously-managed institutions, and, until the public demand a guarantee of efficiency and conduct from the State, it is at the mercy of the nurse-sweating community.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Enquirer, Norwich.—We should advise you to obtain "Practical Nursing," by Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and Dr. Herbert Cuff, F.R.C.S., Medical Superintendent of the North-Eastern Hospital, Tottenham. This book was originally published in two volumes, but is now being brought out in one volume, price 5s. net. We think you would find it very useful. It is published by William Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh and London.

Private Nurse.—Apply to the Matron, Sir Julian Goldsmid's Home of Rest for Nurses, 12, Sussex Square, Brighton, who will let you know when there is a vacancy. You are quite eligible, providing, of course, you have not been exposed to infection.

A Would-be Nurse.—Midwifery or monthly nursing training is not, except quite exceptionally, included in the three years' course at a general hospital. In some of our best-organised Poor Law infirmaries, however, this valuable experience is obtained in the three years' course. We should advise you to write to the Matrons of some of the London infirmaries. You will find a list of them in the Nursing Directory, published at the offices of this journal.

Miss P. W., Birmingham.—Registration by the Central Midwives' Board is necessary if you wish to practise as a midwife, that is, to take normal cases on your own responsibility. If you wish to act only as a maternity nurse, it is optional whether you register or not. Registration is, of course, a guarantee of the possession of a certain amount of knowledge on your part. On the other hand, some medical men object to employing registered midwives to nurse their patients, and so to introduce them to those who can if they choose in subsequent confinement take the cases themselves as independent practitioners.

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 Secretary, 431, Oxford 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](#)