

siring to obtain the services of a woman who possesses a certificate proving that she has attained, if only in one particular, to an educational standard which has legal force, but nevertheless this growing demand for midwives to act as district nurses has its serious aspects. The midwife of the future, let us hope, will be a competent person in her own special branch, but that branch is not *nursing*. Her function is to render skilled assistance in the course of a natural and normal process. Directly the condition of the patient becomes abnormal or diseased, it is her duty to call in the proper authority to deal with the case—viz., a member of the profession of medicine, and her responsibility ceases. She is in no way competent either to treat or to nurse disease. True, she may have that unknown quantity, "some knowledge of nursing," but is this indefinite standard to content us in connection with the nursing of the sick poor in their own homes? Her late Majesty, Queen Victoria thought otherwise. Her desire was that the nurses provided by private benevolence for the poor should be as fully trained and competent as those employed by the rich, and no lower standard should satisfy those who have the interests of the poor at heart.

If the nurses of this country do not desire to see the nursing of the poor pass out of their hands into those of a body of women not trained for the work, let them realise what is taking place before their eyes, and let them demand that, as for midwives so for nurses, a minimum standard of education shall be defined under State authority.

Anyone who has not attained the standard required by law of a midwife is liable to a penalty of £5 if she so describes herself.

Anyone with no training whatever may describe herself, and may act as a nurse with impunity, and many do so, to the great injury of the sick, and of the reputation of a body of honourable and hard-working women.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
A NURSE WHO WANTS STATE REGISTRATION.

LET US PAY OUR WAY.

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

DEAR MADAM,—We are told that it is most kind of rich men to come forward to control us and our professional work, that we should accept their kind overtures with becoming humility. No doubt they are animated by benevolent intentions, no doubt they can finance any schemes which they consider for our benefit. But herein lies our danger. At our peril shall we sell our birthright of professional liberty for this mess of pottage! When once we get State Registration we shall have plenty of money, provided by ourselves, to carry out any necessary professional schemes, and if these wealthy men are really our friends they will use the weight of their influence to help us to help ourselves in this way, then we might believe in their good intentions; but the way to induce this belief is certainly not to draw up a drastic constitution for our government, without so much as consulting a single nursing society as to its acceptability or otherwise to the trained nurses of the Kingdom.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours truly,
AN OLD-FASHIONED SISTER.

Comments and Replies.

Miss Evans.—The period during which a midwife could obtain the certificate of the Central Midwives' Board on the strength of holding the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society, or other recognised certificates, or on the ground of having been in *bond-fide* practice as a midwife for a year before the passing of the Midwives' Act, has now expired. Anyone who now assumes the name of Midwife without being certified under the Act is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5. To be certified under the Act, it is now requisite to pass the examination of the Central Midwives' Board. The first of such examinations will be held in June next, and the fee will be one guinea.

Ward Sister.—Will Ward Sister kindly send us her name and address, not for publication, but in compliance with our rule that "all communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith."

Trained Nurse.—You are quite eligible for membership of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. You should fill in the form provided in this journal and forward it as thereon indicated. The subscription is one shilling if paid annually, or five shillings in one sum for life membership, that is so long as the Society exists for its present purpose.

Provincial Certificate.—Write to the Matron-in-Chief, 68, Victoria Street, S. W.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR 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.

Those nurses who are working on behalf of the above Society, and are endeavouring to spread knowledge as to its aims, may be glad to know that they can now obtain a Memorandum, giving briefly the reasons why Registration is necessary, from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Price 6d. for 20 copies.

Those interested in the efficient organisation of nursing should procure the Annual Report of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Six copies, post free, 7d., or one copy, 1½d. Gives a brief review of the history of State Registration of Nurses.

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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