



Letters to the Editor.

NOTES, QUERIES, &c.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

THE WAY TO GET STATE REGISTRATION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In the House of Commons recently Mr. Labouchere is reported to have said that if women had really desired the franchise they would have got it before now. Let nurses lay to heart these words in connection with State Registration. If they really desire it they will get it; but many of them are so apathetic, and so absorbed in their own little spheres, that they seem to care very little one way or the other. It is fortunate indeed that there are those who have the energy and the ability to work for them, and the thanks of all are due to you, madam, for your unwearied zeal in this matter, and also for having, through your Journal, brought to light the extraordinary attempt of some gentlemen of the City to control us and our affairs. An attempt which seems likely to end in failure, thanks again to you.

I am, Madam, yours truly,
West Suffolk Hospital, M. HARRIS, Matron.
Bury St. Edmunds..

INJECTIONS INTO THE CEREBRO-SPINAL FLUID.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In relation to the new anaesthetic which I understand is injected into the spinal fluid, may I draw attention to a case which occurred within my own knowledge while residing in a tropical country. A gentleman was admitted into a hospital suffering from malaria, and insisted that an injection of morphia which had been ordered should be given by the above method. As he was a medical man his instructions were carried out. Within a very few days he was dead from tetanus. Of course, the tetanus might have occurred from other causes. It was suggested at the time, I remember, that he had been exposed to a draught, and various hypotheses were rife. But it was not seriously doubted, I think, that his death was directly connected with the injection of morphia given in the method described. The syringe may, of course, and perhaps this is the most likely theory, have been a dirty one, but the case at least goes to prove that the injection of drugs into the spinal fluid is not unattended with risk, and nurses will, I think, do well to note the case, so that should this form of anaesthetising patients come to be commonly used, they may exercise extreme caution and scrupulous cleanliness so far as their preparation of the instrument used is concerned. The case at least shows that the method is not without danger.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
TRAVELLER.

AN EFFICIENT AMBULANCE SERVICE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I observe with pleasure that you are directing attention in your valuable journal to the need for the organisation of an efficient Ambulance Service in connection with the hospitals of the Metropolitan. It seems amazing that such a service has so far not been organised. Imagine a case of fractured femur jolting to a hospital in one of our time-honoured growlers. In the first place the difficulty of getting the patient into the vehicle at all is extreme, and, in the second, there is a very real danger of a simple fracture becoming a compound one, and so adding very materially to the seriousness of the patient's condition. It seems inconceivable that a city which can maintain such splendid hospitals, and which has such an efficient service in the case of its fire brigade, should be content to take no cognisance of the sick until they are brought to the doors of the hospitals under the most undesirable conditions, when every effort will be made to avert the evils, and assuage the pain, which a journey under those conditions has occasioned. Would it not be more in accordance with humane and common-sense principles to shut the stable door before the steed is stolen, and to arrange for an up-to-date ambulance service? I am sure that every nurse who has worked in a hospital would say so.—I am, dear madam, Yours faithfully,
HOSPITAL SISTER.

Comments and Replies.

Retex.—Mr. G. W. Duncan, Secretary to the Central Midwives' Board, 6, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, S.W., would furnish you with all information.

Ward Sister.—The meetings of the Select Committee are taking place regularly now on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11.30, in Committee Room 17, at the House of Commons. The public are admitted.

Miss P. Thomson.—We are always glad to consider articles of a practical character, and to pay for them at our current rate if accepted. The accounts are made up as soon as possible after the end of each quarter.

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.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)