

THE RURAL MIDWIVES' ASSOCIATION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The very useful work of the Rural Midwives' Association has, we feel sure, only to be better known to secure the interest that it deserves. The number of women sent out through its organisation to work in the rural villages as midwives and nurses amongst the poor—women of the working class who are ready to give practical help and sympathy to the cottage mother—is continually increasing; and the hearty recognition of its value from doctors and nursing associations in the sixteen counties where it already has sixty-four women at work, is most encouraging. The financial department is so well organised that the actual training is, in a great measure, self-paying; but, as in all work of this sort, a margin of necessary expense must be met by voluntary assistance, it is, principally by increasing the number of our members that this can be obtained. The membership ranges from 5s. to £5 5s. per annum, with the advantage of free help and advice in starting such work in country villages, and also of a considerable reduction in the training fee of any woman engaged by a subscriber of not less than £1 ls. a year.

The indirect good that our Association does in helping to solve the difficulty of the degeneration of children, and so of the future of our people, is very great. Our Midwives enable the mother to rest in peace and regain her strength without anxiety as to her household's needs; they see that the baby has a fair start in life with the nourishment suited to its condition, and the mother is taught how to manage and feed it when the midwife has gone. Much of the money now so generously given to hospitals and convalescent homes might be saved, if throughout the land, in every village, these valued friends of the rural poor could be established. The Midwives' Act in a few years will absolutely prevent the employment of all untrained women; but the work of the Rural Midwives Association goes far beyond this, for it not only aims at supplying the properly trained Midwife, but also one who in many other ways can give help and comfort in the cottage home.

Are we wrong, then, in assuming that there are many who will, when they know of its intensely practical work, most willingly help this Association?

There is in connection with it now a Training Home in Bermondsey, which after a few months' work is already so popular with the poor, that as much as £10 in a month is paid by them in small sums towards the services of the Midwife and her Probationers, and we have reason to hope that it will shortly be entirely self-supporting. We might also mention that we are glad to hear of Probationers to train.

JOSEPHINE JOHNSTONE.
(Chairman of Executive Committee.)
HENRY SYDNEY SEYMOUR.
(Hon. Treasurer.)

Office, R.M.A., 47, Victoria Street, S.W.

[As will be seen from the notice under the heading "Coming Events" on the preceding page, the Annual Meeting of this Society takes place in London on Friday, March 2nd.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

We regret that in our issue of last week in the list of new members of the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses the position of Sister in Charge at the National Dental Hospital should have been attached to the name of Miss E. Pickett, number 1,676, instead of to that of Mrs. Norton, number 1,675, which immediately precedes her.

Miss A. Moyes.—There is no regulation laid down as to a knowledge of French and German being requisite, in the regulations of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. Write to the Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S., enclosing a stamped envelope, and ask for a copy of the Regulations; also whether a list is published of the training schools of which the certificate qualifies for admission to this Service. You will find the regulations of all the principal English, Scotch, and Irish Training Schools printed in the Nursing Directory, published at 11, Adam Street, Strand, London, W.C., price 5s.

Probationer.—In writing a report with regard to a patient, accuracy is of the first importance. Do not note, for instance, that the patient takes his food well in general terms, but state what he has consumed. The same rule applies to sleep. It is not sufficient to say that he slept well. Note for how long, and whether the sleep was broken or unbroken.

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 iv. of cover, or can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. 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. Six copies, post free, 7d., or one copy 1½d. It gives a brief review of the history of State Registration.

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 Prizes will be found on Advertisement page viii.

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