

badly shrunk, by having a wide seam, sewn flat, down the centre of the back, each back and front being on the cross, and cut in one with a sleeve, the latter being placed on a straight fold and cut kimono wise. A row of machine stitching all round followed by a row of double crochet in fine wool will secure all stitches. A row of holes in crochet along the top, headed by another of double crochet, will take a draw string of French tape, and two pieces of the tape, starting from the side seams and threaded through the fabric by a bodkin, will form a front fastening.

An alternative plan is to cut one little vest from one large one in a single piece, with opening down the front; the sleeves being cut separately, terminating at the top in a point which is carried up to the neck, and inserted in a five-inch slit cut from the neck downwards.

Such vests will be comfortable wear for a baby from the age of one week to ten months or longer.

I am, dear Madam, yours faithfully,

M. M. G. B.

A MISSIONARY NURSE NEEDED.

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

DEAR MADAM,—It has occurred to me that perhaps you may know of a midwife, who is also a trained nurse, who is seeking an opening for starting a midwifery practice. There is such urgent need of a midwife and visiting nurse in this district that I believe it offers an excellent opportunity to two nurses living together. Around here are five growing villages, about three miles from a town, and from one to two and a-half from each other. There is no trained or certificated midwife and not even a partly trained "monthly" nurse. The one ignorant and illiterate specimen of the latter is a veritable Gamp, but she is kept fully employed by the neighbouring doctor, whose practice includes four of these villages. The patients too poor to employ the Gamp are attended by some woman friend. The doctor attends all cases, charges a guinea, and is so overworked that he is often not at the case until after the birth, and I have been told many harrowing stories of the unnecessary suffering endured by the poor cottage mothers. I do not know the figures of the population, but in this village alone births, and illness seem frequent enough to provide a midwife with a living wage. Near by has lately been started a gramophone factory, employing many thousands. The cottage class here works in the fields and market gardens, and varies from quite nice respectable women to the very lowest type. Bad language is rife, and all the vices of the Cockney are cultivated. Good wages are earned by the women, often while the husbands loaf, and the money is wasted through ignorance. This field work for women is a curse. It coarsens them, and makes them quite unable to stay indoors and tend their homes and children. It reduces the women's sleep during the summer months to five or six hours, and the children suffer. There is no one to teach them the elements of hygiene. In three of the villages the parson's wife is either incapable,

or incapable and self-indulgent, too, and takes no interest in the parish. Here a friend of my own, who meant to do good, worked demoralisation by lavish gifts of money and bottles of port! I have been able to teach just a little—a drop in the ocean.

An adjoining case I am looking after now is typical of scores. A month-old baby I discovered a week ago, weighing about 2½ lb., and apparently dying of starvation. Its mother has no milk, the doctor ordered Swiss milk, said he could do nothing more, and that "a spoonful of mother's milk would save it." I found the child covered with flea-bites, its buttocks raw and bleeding, which the mother said was "only thrush," a dummy continually in its mouth, and its milk administered through a tube from a soda-water bottle. It was clothed in a very stiff cotton binder and a cotton shirt, and the room was shut up and stifling and the air foul. I fought the battle of open windows—at least by day—and no dummy; put the baby on cow and Gates' Dry Milk, and an Allenburys' Feeder. It has gained steadily ever since. It is also clad in soft wool now. The mother wants it to live, and is doing as she is told. She says—as they all say—that no one ever before told them that their way of managing a baby is all wrong. No wonder the adult hospital patients are so numerous when such a pitiful start in life is given to so many.

For an educated, fully-trained nurse, physically strong, and able to cycle, I think this place presents a fine field for the highest form of missionary work. There are many hopeful points in the people, and so far an absolutely clear field, for not even a district visitor ventures on health talks. Many of the little shopkeepers have assured me how welcome a good midwife would be in their village, and for one with sufficient means to venture there appears every prospect of success.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

A HEALTH MISSIONER.

[How terrible it is that close to London such ignorance exists. Letters addressed to Box 50, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING Office, 11 Adam Street, Strand, London, W.C., will be forwarded.—Ed.]

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

All those desirous of helping on the important movement of this Society to obtain an Act providing for the Legal Registration of Trained Nurses can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

OUR PUZZLE COMPETITION.

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

All competitions must be addressed to the Editor, at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

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