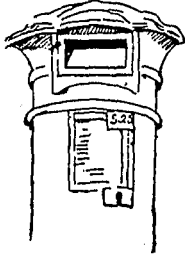


Letters to the Editor.



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.

HOMELY TALKS WITH POOR MOTHERS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—As a trained nurse who has had considerable experience amongst the poor in their own homes, and in the organisation of mothers' meetings amongst the former patients, maternity and others, I have read with great interest the papers entitled "Homely Talks with Poor Mothers," which have appeared in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and hope that the attention of clergymen's wives and others will be widely directed to them. They contain just the kind of information which is needed by working class mothers, and would be welcomed by them. The precious hour which they spend once a week together in a mothers' meeting is too often utilised for the reading of some rather feeble story, of no particular point, and, from a literary standpoint, one which we certainly should not think of reading for ourselves. Why should we not give these hard-working women credit for the intellect of which they undoubtedly have their full share, and of the desire to apply it for the benefit of their families and tell or read to them something really useful? My experience is that it is pathetic to see how eagerly they absorb instruction and how grateful they are for it.

One other point I should like to mention. When we receive friends of our own in the afternoon they are not allowed to leave without being offered tea. It is not done so universally as one could wish with these poorer friends whom we essay to help. I have even heard it described as pauperising them, bribery, and corruption, and so forth. Why? For myself, I have found myself amply recompensed for the slight trouble the practice gives me by their great enjoyment of the one cup of tea in the week which they do not "make for themselves."

Yours truly,

A HUMAN PERSON.

WOULD IT PAY P

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have some idea of opening a Nursing Home for paying midwifery patients, and I have reason to believe that I should obtain a good deal of support. May I ask the opinion of your readers on such a project? I am a certified midwife, and have had a good deal of experience in midwifery, and I feel sure that there is an opening for such a venture, though I believe mine would be the first. As a rule the midwifery cases which are relegated to us are those which "cannot afford

to pay a doctor's fees." One reads it in the papers over and over again, but I see no possible reason for this. We are legally allowed to practise midwifery within certain limits, and those limits cover about 95 per cent. of midwifery cases. My idea is to pay an annual retaining fee to a medical practitioner who is an obstetrician of standing, so that I could secure his services without loss of time—by telephone or otherwise—in the event of my needing assistance in the other 5 per cent. of cases. I believe that such a home would not only meet the needs of a great many people, those living in flats, officers' wives, patients from abroad, etc., but would pay, and pay well, if properly organised and managed. It need not be in London; indeed, preferably, I think it should be in the country, within a short distance of town. It would be better for the patients to be in the fresh air, and rents would be less than in London, so one could afford to take lower fees and still make the same profit. Frankly, I want to make a living by my midwifery, in which I am told I have some skill, and district midwifery amongst the poor spells starvation unless one has something to fall back upon. Besides, it is bad business to spend one's capital. I prefer to invest mine in a going concern.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

Comments and Replies.

Country Midwife.—The laying out of still-born infants by a midwife is permitted by the Central Midwives' Board under certain conditions. See Rule 16, page 21, in the Board's Rules.

NOTICE.

OFFICIAL ORGAN.

The BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is the official organ of the following important nursing societies: The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

The International Council of Nurses.

The National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses

The Registered Nurses' Society.

The School Nurses' League.

As their official organ is widely read by the members of these societies, the Editor will at all times be pleased to find space for items of news from the Secretaries and members.

Exclusive news being copyright, papers quoting from our columns must give the name of this journal as the source of their information.

Notices.

OUR PUZZLE COMPETITION.

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

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

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