

to lack of education on the part of the public, or to lack of money, but to lack of nurses.

Yours faithfully,
COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT.

THE POWERS OF A DISTRICT NURSE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am a District Nurse living in rooms, as in this place there is no central home, and I should be obliged if other nurses working under a committee would tell me if they serve under the same system. I am not permitted to distribute any food whatever, neither may I have a supply cupboard, and my experience is that, having to report to a Lady District Visitor who is not trained, and who is responsible for giving out all food, stimulants, and appliances, is both annoying and entails a great loss of time. When I undertook district nursing I imagined that I should be responsible to the committee for the keeping and distributing of needful nursing articles, but there seem innumerable ladies of leisure to do everything but the hard work—that I may do, and plenty, both night and day. No doubt where there is a central home things are better organised. The experience of others would interest me much.

Yours truly,

A DISTRICT NURSE.

THE MIDWIVES' BOARD FINANCES.

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

DEAR MADAM.—I heartily agree with much that "A Certified Midwife" wrote last week, especially her contention that so long as midwives have no expert representation by right on their own Board, and the members of that Board are unpaid, they cannot hope for any honourable professional status. They certainly have a right, moreover, to help to control the expenditure of the fees they pay. The cost of training in most lying-in hospitals I do not consider excessive. Of course, a school of midwifery is a very paying addition to the hospital, especially if it is a general one, but a good *quid pro quo*, is given, as teaching, board, and lodging are provided, and all can be much better where the hospital makes a profit from the pupils. The charitable public will not willingly pay for a midwife's instruction (unless she is bound to work out her cost amongst the poor when trained) any more than they will pay to keep up medical schools if they know it.

Yours truly,

ANOTHER CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

A LOST OPPORTUNITY.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I note "A Certified Midwife's" advice that we midwives should rouse ourselves and get an amended Midwives' Act, on which the workers would have direct representation, and professional representation on the Departmental Committee, and I beg to thank her for her self-respecting letter. I note that she expects the Midwives' Defence Association to take up these questions, and without doubt here is good work to its hand. But has it not made such a course

almost impossible by becoming absorbed in the Midwives' Institute. Surely, action will now be out of the question, as the President and Treasurer of the Institute both have seats on the Central Midwives' Board. What, therefore, is their position? Can these ladies lead our outside agitation for direct representation on the Board when it is well known that some of its male members would be much opposed to the innovation. Somehow it seems that the wings of "defence" are entirely clipped. Miss Margaret Breay has put the whole matter most clearly in her letter of resignation. I for one entirely agree with her, and feel she is just the sort of woman the midwives want. It is indeed a great pity to lose so straightforward and public spirited a woman from any of our societies.

This affiliation means that the new arrangement will only appeal to metropolitan midwives. Country and provincial midwives could not use the club, and they are probably just the women who might be unfairly treated.

Yours sincerely,

A COUNTRY MIDWIFE.

Comments and Replies.

Tired.—Write to Miss Tucker, The Hostel, Hindhead, Surrey, terms 25s. each for two sharing a room. It is in the district in which you wish to be.

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.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

An application form for those who wish to become members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses will be found on page iii. of cover. It will soon be too late to help on the important work of this Society. No habitual reader of this journal can, we feel sure, be content to stand aside and let others found the future Profession of Nursing. Now is the time to help.

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