

WHY COURAGE ?

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The following cutting from the *Daily Mail* may interest "Maternity Nurse" if she has missed it—nurses are sometimes too busy to read the papers.

"The following dialogue between Mr. J. Troutbeck, the coroner, and a waterside labourer, called as a witness was heard yesterday at a Lambeth inquest on a newly born baby.

The Coroner : When was it born ?

The Witness : Now you've done me ! (After a pause.) Friday afternoon, I believe.

How many children has your wife had—Nineteen.

Any twins ?—None at all.

How long have you been married ?—Twenty-three years.

How many children are alive now ?—Only twelve now.

Addressing the jury, who found that the death was from natural causes, the coroner said the father was certainly a courageous man."

Had the coroner been a woman she might have found a more apt description for this father of 19 ! Surely all the courage, if not martyrdom, is on the side of the unfortunate mother.

Yours truly,

A SLUM SISTER.

A WARNING TO NURSING HOMES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I will be glad if you will call attention to and give warning of the following in your paper, and kindly do not mention any names.

A man called here at my Nursing Home last Friday, December 29th ; said he was an agent, and had been asked by a client to get him into a Home here in W— or in this neighbourhood as he had friends here.

The patient was a nerve case, and was ordered a rest cure. I refused the case, as I prefer surgical work, and I was then asked would I take a man with diseased bone of leg, who was under Sir Fred. Wallis, of Harley Street. I said "yes" to this, and it was arranged the patient was to come in on January 6th. He asked also did I take maternity cases ? To this I also said "yes," and as a result a lady was to come in on the 12th. He took his cheque for one guinea with him (subscription for one year) leaving a written agreement about those two patients, and that he guaranteed to send in a third in the course of the next two months. I since find my cheque was paid into the Bank here that same day, so he must have got it cashed somewhere in the town. There was commission to be paid, of course, later on after the patients were in the Home. He mentioned he was going to H— from here. To-day the Matron of a Home there telephoned to me asking about this man. He had told her he had sent me cases for the last six months, and she was promised the rest cure case (who now

had friends in H—) and also the maternity case. He had told us both he would write on Monday last, giving us the names, addresses, &c., of the patients so that we could communicate with them before they came in, and no letter coming made us realise we had been defrauded.

This Matron and I both felt we did not like this man to go free, but at the same time thought that the police might trace the man and then we should have to appear in Court, which would perhaps be harmful to our Homes, seeing that we are both working up our connection, and could not afford any set-back.

The man had properly printed cards, case forms and receipt forms, and the name and address he gave were :—

A. R. Burney,

Head Office : 87, Gray's Inn Road,
Holborn, W.C.

Also at Dublin and Glasgow.

He had about a dozen professional cards with him from Homes chiefly in Streatham and Clapham. He asked the Matron at H— for one of her cards, and me for mine for his clients, so last Friday he added at least 2 guineas to his pocket, and 2 more cards !

By this time, I expect, Burney is no longer his name, nor Gray's Inn Road his address.

If you would kindly insert a warning in your paper, I should feel most grateful. It might be the means of preventing some others, at least, from being similarly defrauded.

Thanking you in anticipation,

I remain,

Yours truly,

A MATRON OF A NURSING HOME.

[We feel sure that Superintendents of Nursing Homes will be grateful to our correspondent for putting them on their guard.—Ed.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION FOR JANUARY.

January 20th.—How would you deal with the umbilical cord, from the moment of birth till its separation from the child ?

January 27th.—What care must be taken when removing the clothes of a person badly burned ?

NOTICES.

THE ISLA STEWART ORATION PAMPHLET.

The Isla Stewart Oration Pamphlet with Portrait can now be obtained from THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING Office, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Price One Shilling.

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