

cannot speak for themselves, will no longer suffer, as they now do, but will be given by the State that help and protection they so much require.—Yours faithfully,

JANE WILSON,  
President Midwives' Institute.

#### THE MESSAGE QUESTION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Permit me to express my thanks for the editorial on "The Message Question" in the January 5th issue of the NURSING RECORD. It must have been perfectly clear to anyone who carefully read the articles in the *British Medical Journal*, that the honest masseur and masseuse would get no assistance from that quarter; and, indeed, after reading the article of July 14th, 1894, I fail to see how it could be expected. The want of a regular, systematic and scientific system of instruction and practice in massage has long been felt, and, although such a system has been hinted at, no serious attempt has been made to ensure its success. Up to the present the only means existing in Great Britain and Ireland for the education of masseurs and masseuses have been such as they could obtain by self-exertion, patient study of current literature on masso-therapeutics, attending a few lectures, joining an unsatisfactorily conducted class, or by obtaining lessons of some self-constituted "massage" establishment. Others have been aided by such private teaching as they could reach through a practitioner of masso-therapy at home or by studying abroad. The day has arrived when the science and art of masso-therapy must be placed on a reliable basis, and this must be done by those in whose interests and for whose improvement and protection the British Massage Association is being inaugurated. The crude and unsound methods of to-day, on which the existing means of instruction and practice rest, and from which has emanated so much mischief to honest workers, must be swept away. In its place we must lay a new foundation, strong and firm as rock, so that year by year we may observe the progress of a growing superstructure resulting in a healthy and trustworthy institution of educated, efficient and reliable masso-theraputists who will prove a credit to themselves, to their profession, and of greater service to the sick than heretofore. Under the rules of the Association every facility will be afforded for the improvement, by practical methods, of all its members. One of its primary aims will be to secure the proficiency of those who are now *bonâ fide* engaged in the practice of massage. The following extracts from the objects of the Association may be of interest as illustrating the scope of its aims:—

"To unite masso-theraputists, masseurs, masseuses, and all such other persons of either sex as may be immediately concerned in the legitimate study and practice of massage in an organised body, with a view of promoting the investigation, accurate study, and genuine employment of the science and art of masso-therapy and allied therapeutic methods.

To establish massage and all similar modes of treatment on a sound, systematic and scientific basis; to determine, and disseminate a knowledge of the force, extent and duration of all therapeutic manipulators in all cases and under whatever circumstances, and regulate their administration; to encourage the attentive consideration of the curative and palliative value of masso-therapeutics when applied to certain abnormal conditions of the human organism, and carefully observe immediate and subsequent physiological effects.

To promote the study of such diseases . . . as may be beneficially treated by masso-therapeutics, and encourage inquiry into their nature and effects; . . . to deprecate and discourage the application of massage in cases for which it is unsuited, and by every lawful means endeavour to confine its administration to properly qualified, educated, and conscientious persons.

To keep a register containing the full name, address, and special qualifications of every member; to furnish information to medical practitioners and others seeking . . . reliable operators, and to persons seeking for employment as masseurs and masseuses.

To provide suitable instructors and examiners, and arrange instruction classes for the purpose of teaching, elucidating, and demonstrating massage, and all such subjects as may from time to time be decided upon by the Association as essential to qualification.

To acquire a library of scientific and other suitable books, etc.

To ensure the advancement of . . . all connected with the Association by means of periodical meetings, discussions, lectures, and reading of dissertations on the following, or any other suitable, subjects:—Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, Psychology, Mechanics, Hygiene, Massage, and Masso-therapeutics as applied to usual or unusual cases.

To work in harmony with the medical profession . . . in the employment of a special remedy, and co-operate with them in all that comes within the province of the Association to do to relieve suffering, and to combat and prevent disease.

To promote and maintain schemes for the benefit of masseurs and masseuses in the practice of their profession, and establish a fund for their advantage in times of sickness and adversity.

To infuse a spirit of love for humanity, of tenderness . . . towards the suffering, and of love for science; to defend and sustain the dignity, honour, and integrity of the Association, and to promote the general well-being of all its members, etc."

There are over 60 rules which come under the various headings of "Government" (Governing Council, President, and other officers); "Constitution" (members and associates, their qualifications, etc.); "Registration" including offences for which the name of a member or associate shall be struck off the register, etc.; "Corresponding Members"; "General Meetings," including proceedings, management, etc.; "Election of the Council" and their duties, etc.; "Finance," "Property," "Lectures and Lecturers," "Instruction Classes," "Students and Candidates," "Examinations," "Educational Period," "Indentures," "Subscriptions and Fees," "Certificates," "Benevolent Fund," etc., etc. The certificate of the Association will only be granted to such as meet the full requirements of those making application for membership or associateship. Special rules are laid down in reference to the issue of certificates, which can only be granted with the sanction of the Governing Council, after all the requirements of the Association have been complied with. I can only hope that my humble efforts will end in every masseur and masseuse doing his or her best to make the British Massage Association a success. "By their fruits ye shall know them."—Yours truly,

2, Sloane Square, London, S.W.

THOS. MALTRY.

January 9th, 1895.

#### THE UN-PROFESSIONAL AMONG NURSES,

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—Miss Landale, in her letter headed, "The Un-professional among Nurses," says, "It is sad to think that there are those among us who look on the Nursing Profession as a means of livelihood." In answer to this, I should like to say that I see nothing undignified or unprofessional in the fact that a woman regards her work as a means of livelihood. And I should like to see, once for all and for ever, eliminated from the profession of Nursing the popular idea that it is necessarily done for piety, for sentiment, or as a question of martyrdom. There has been too much of this in the past, and undoubtedly this idea that Nursing work is done for the

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