

culated widely as a national protest against vivisection. You once said you did not consider any human being worthy the torture of one dog, and all those who really love animals must feel with you, when reading of the vile and unnecessary torture of living animals as depicted by Mr. Townesend, who as an F.R.C.S., speaks from experience. The suffering of those poor helpless living things, fixed into a vice and without chloroform, maddened with agony, made my heart bleed, and to pass through and become accustomed to such scenes as here described must make devils out of men, and no wonder the "kindly old physician," beloved of the people in the past generation, is passing away. The slim bloodless modern bacteriologist whom the sick are invited to take in his place, is becoming feared and hated, and if our modern "healers" are subjected to an education so brutalising, is it a wonder their innate sympathy for suffering is blunted or non-existent. Surely it is time to call a halt!

Always truly,
"A LOVER OF DOGS."

Comments and Replies.

Country Matron.—There is at present no minimum curriculum of nursing education laid down by any professional body in this country, and there are scarcely two schools which give precisely the same course of training. It has, perhaps, been well that in the past each Matron should have worked out her own scheme of education in connection with the nursing school over which she presides, but the time has now come when the heads of training schools should compare notes, and in conference together approve a minimum standard of nursing education which commends itself

to their united judgment. Isolated effort belongs to the past, co-operation to the present and future, and if we do not wish to be left behind, we must needs combine. This is the lowest reason, that of self protection. A higher one is to view co-operation as a duty we owe to our profession and to the public. We are mutually benefitted by contact and exchange of opinions with others of the same profession.

District Midwife.—You will find it most necessary to be explicit in your directions to your patients or to the neighbours who look after them during your absence. Such directions as "do not give her any stimulants," "do not give the baby any gruel, or butter and sugar," should always be emphatically given as a routine practice. You can hardly be too minute as to your instructions. About the only direction which it is unnecessary to give is "do not get up on the ninth day." There is a curious superstition amongst the working classes that a recent mother must always keep her bed on the ninth day even if she gets up and does her work from the fourth to the eighth, but she will transgress almost every other rule if you are not on the alert. She will, for instance, be in bed when you pay your regular visit every morning, but a second and unexpected visit will often find her up, and about her household work. It is wonderful what good recoveries are made considering the risks run by working mothers at these times.

Certificated Nurse.—Our advice is to be most cautious before you decide to open a nursing home, their name already is legion, and although your qualifications are excellent, it does not follow therefore that you will succeed. There are scores of homes managed by women who have had no training, but which are nevertheless largely "patronised" by the medical profession, and the number of patients who go into such homes is, after all, limited. In our opinion all private nursing homes should be registered, and it should be a necessary condition of registration that the superintendent is a trained nurse. The public pays for skilled nursing in these homes, and is entitled to it.

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