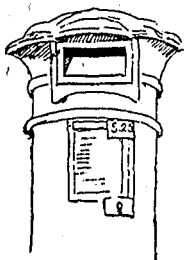


**Letters to the Editor.**

NOTES, QUERIES. &c.



*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.*

**OUR GUINEA PRIZE.**

*To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."*  
"Ellesmere,"

York Avenue,  
Yeovil.

December 16th, 1901.

Miss May Milborne thanks the Editor of the **NURSING RECORD** for Cheque of £1 1s. for "Puzzle Prize," safely received.

**LEGAL STATUS FOR SPECIALISTS.**

*To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."*

MADAM, — It is cheering to note that the attitude of the Matrons' Council and the "NURSING RECORD" is so determined against the proposed Registration of Midwives, and as astonishing that so many ladies of culture are so blind as to lend their active support to a scheme, which, if adopted by Parliament, would involve the most disastrous consequences to the poor or the ignorant parturient women of England. It is easy to show that it would be a retrograde step of the worst type. In 1886 the Legislature, recognising the evils of allowing doctors, who were qualified in "medicine," "surgery," or as "Apothecaries"—singly—to practice, even in the branch in which they were qualified—wisely insisted that before being registered to practice at all, they must be completely trained in medicine, surgery, and midwifery, and it is needless to point out that this law applies to women as well as men.

It should be obvious to anyone of the most limited experience of sickness, that there exists no hard and fast line between these three branches of "medicine"—at any moment an apparently "normal" labour may assume an acute medical or surgical aspect—say by the occurrence of convulsions (from pre-existing disease), or a ruptured tubal pregnancy.

To suppose that such complications as these could be *anticipated*—I do not mention "treated" seriously—by a woman with the few months' "education" which the "Obstetrical Society of London" requires from its "Licentiates"—indicates one of three things, viz., interestedness, fatuity, or a gross carelessness of the lives of the poor and their unborn offspring.

Putting out of consideration the opinions of those members of the medical profession who are engaged in the so-called "education" of the "modern midwife"—the vast majority of the medical profession has repeatedly expressed itself against the Registration of Midwives, as such, and in favour of the Registration of Nurses. The most recent expression of its opinion is the election to the General Medical Council of Drs. Jackson and Brown by an overwhelming majority. But this is essentially a woman's question, and should

be thought out by every nurse for herself. Let each one ask herself whether in her own hour of travail she would prefer to be attended by a thoroughly trained Male or Female "Doctor," or by an up to date "Gamp" with an L.O.S. after her name? And if she would not like the latter for herself, and if she would not like the "Gamp" to assume the superiority which the "registration" would legally confer, let her be up and doing; informing all whom she may be brought into contact with of the *truth*—no more is needed about the Midwives' Registration Bill.

I don't think the medical profession can be trusted to oppose this Bill. We are so open to the unjust charge of "self-interest." It is, I repeat, essentially a woman's question, and women should work (as they only can work) ere it be too late.

COLIN CAMPBELL.

Saddleworth,  
December 15th, 1901.

**NO SEX IN MEDICINE.**

*To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—The *Manchester Evening Courier* was particularly happy in a cartoon recently published hitting off the present attitude of the honorary medical staff of the Macclesfield Infirmary towards the lady house surgeon of that institution. It is a clever drawing. Six schoolboys, like the Rheims choristers in Ingoldsby, "dear little souls! in nice, clean faces," have suspended their game of hoop, turned their backs to the public, and with elevated noses and supercilious expressions on their cherub countenances, are gazing "over the garden wall," while a charming little girl, also possessed of a hoop, stands aghast at their ungallant behaviour towards herself.

And it is satisfactory to note that the lay press is almost unanimous in supporting Miss Murdoch Clarke in her brave stand for the principle of no sex in medicine, and that she has also the support of her Glasgow confrères. It is to be hoped that the male members of the medical profession at large will give some expression of opinion on this vexed question—they should urge the honorary staff at Macclesfield to realise that their ill-judged attitude will arouse immense sympathy for the lady, already known as the "Macclesfield Martyr," and a very sore feeling in the minds of liberal persons, who hoped that such intolerance of women's work was a thing of the past.

MOTHER OF A MEDICAL WOMAN.

**THE OBNOXIOUS COOK.**

*To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."*

DEAR MADAM,—I read with amazement the letter from your correspondent, "Enquirer," in last week's **RECORD**. As you say it is difficult to imagine the situation in an institution where the head cook takes precedence of every official including the Matron. But why do not the nursing staff go in a body to the Matron and tell her their feelings on the subject, and why do they not combine to make the place too hot to hold the obnoxious cook so that she would be glad to quit on any terms? Surely, if a dozen women set themselves to accomplish this end they could achieve it in a very short time. Why do women grizzle instead of acting?

Yours faithfully,  
A PRACTICAL WOMAN.

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