

reconsider this regulation. The reason he gave was that he had had personal opportunity of knowing of the good work done, and good influence exercised by, the midwives sent out from the Home, and he also knew that in the case of young women previously of sober character, drinking habits were contracted as a result of the advice given in a first confinement by drinking midwives. It *does* matter, it matters profoundly, whether the influence of a midwife who may be sober enough to "do her job well" makes for evil, and the subsequent unhappiness and degradation of the households she enters, instead of being a factor for good.

Another point which Mr. Holland seems quite to have overlooked is that the exigencies of midwifery work cannot be arranged to suit the convenience of a drinking midwife. Let us suppose that, having successfully completed her attendance on one case, she is, with Mr. Holland's sanction and a good conscience, drinking herself stupid. Who is to ensure that while in that condition she may not be called upon to attend another case? A case, be it remembered, where she is not, like a nurse, subject to supervision and under orders, but where she holds the life of mother and infant in her hands. Those of us who have had practical experience of midwifery know that the calls come irregularly and suddenly, that they must be met with a clear head, a steady hand, and a nervous system under control, and that a midwife who drinks herself stupid, whether on duty or off it, is an unsafe and dangerous one, who in the interests of the community should not be allowed to practise her calling.

I may perhaps also be allowed to point out that Mr. Holland's attitude is, to use the mildest term, uncomplimentary to, and calculated to rouse indignation in, a body of hard-working women, who day and night devote themselves to a service as laborious as it is useful, with a devotion which, in the case of the majority, is beyond all praise, who take a keen and intelligent interest in their work, and to whom his permission to "drink themselves stupid" appears as grotesque as it is uncalled for.—I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET BREAY.

THE LAW OF COURTESY.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am very glad to see that you are emphasising in your valuable journal the necessity for nurses to cultivate the grace of courtesy towards all with whom they come in contact. Off-hand manners do give such an unfavourable impression both of a nurse and of the institution to which she belongs, even when they are no more than skin deep, and the intentions of the offender are kindly. This, indeed, raises a somewhat nice point, which I leave your readers to decide for themselves, each in the way that seems best to her.

Do bad manners exist simultaneously with good feelings? Personally I doubt it. Shy and uncomfortable manners may, though even they as a rule proceed from self-consciousness. But I doubt if really rude behaviour can be co-existent with kindly feeling. Manners, be they good or bad, are probably the outward expression of the inward feelings. They afford an opportunity for studying cause and effect.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
A LOVER OF COURTESY.

Comments and Replies.

Monthly Nurse.—Humanized milk is obtainable from Messrs. Welford and Sons, Elgin Avenue, Maida Vale, W., who have long made a specialty of providing pure milk from their own dairy farms, which are managed on the most hygienic principles. The milk is modified when necessary, in order to bring it into conformity with the needs of hand-fed infants, and is then known as humanized milk. Messrs. Welford have depôts in various parts of the metropolis, through which their milk may be obtained.

Mrs. Evans.—A midwife should not take upon herself the responsibility of giving an inter-uterine douche without express medical directions, in which case she must realise the gravity of the procedure. Points to be remembered in this connection are the danger of any degree of pressure, as this may force the fluid used as an irrigating agent into the peritoneal cavity and set up peritonitis, or, in the case of a poisonous antiseptic, such as corrosive sublimate, fatal poisoning. The irrigator should, therefore, be kept at a low level, and the fluid be very gently injected. Care should be taken that none remains in the uterus. Cases of perforation of the uterine wall by uterine tubes are also on record.

Charge Nurse.—Poisons should invariably be kept in bottles of a special shape, so that there is no possibility of confounding them with ordinary medicines; they should also be kept under lock and key. This rule applies to poisonous disinfectants, though one may still see an array of bottles of this nature exposed on the tables of some hospital wards.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

All those desirous of helping on the important movement of this Society to obtain a Bill providing for the Legal Registration of Trained Nurses will find an application form on page vii., or can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

Those nurses who are working on behalf of the above Society, and are endeavouring to spread knowledge as to its aims, may be glad to know that they can now obtain a Memorandum, giving briefly the reasons why Registration is necessary, from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Price 6d. for 20 copies.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Editor will at all times be pleased to consider articles of a suitable nature for insertion in this journal—those on practical nursing are specially invited. The Editor will also be pleased to receive paragraphs, such as items of nursing news, results of nurses' examinations, new appointments, reports of hospital functions, also letters on questions of interest to nurses, and newspapers marked with reports of matters of professional interest.

Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page viii.

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