

INFANT FEEDING IN SPAIN.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I was much interested in the account (B.J.N., June 30th, "Nursing Echoes") of infants being reared on fresh goats' milk in the Maternity Home at Alexandria. I had heard of the same thing being done in a homely and I am afraid not in an aseptic fashion in a country home in Spain. It was managed in this way; whenever Master Baby cried, Mrs. Goat came running from her grazing on the hill or field, put herself into position over the cradle, and baby started operations. When he was satisfied, the foster-mother went off duty till next time. The child seems to have been quite a healthy one, but at what age this method was adopted I know not.

In connection with this, I may mention a curious Spanish custom, and to us it seems a rather disgusting one. When a mother has the misfortune to lose her baby she gets a little puppy dog to take its place, nurses it and fondles it, and so far as possible treats it as if it were her own. I believe puppies are commonly sold in the market for this purpose. Perhaps this custom is not confined to Spain, however.

Now that the subject of infant mortality is exercising the minds of our legislators, perhaps it might interest them to know that in that land of extremes, of enormous wealth and wretched poverty, of beautiful women and, alas! of ugly ones too, of methods that are very modern and up to date, and of those that are antediluvian, in lovely Spain, the mill-workers who are nursing mothers are allowed to go home for fifteen minutes at stated times daily to nurse their babies. Of course, in a country where bottle-feeding is practically unknown, some such custom would seem to be necessary, but the plan has certainly something to recommend it even here. At least such is the opinion of

Yours truly,
ESCOCESSA.

THE ETON BEAGLES.

The following letter has been addressed by "Ouida" to the Head Master of Eton:—"Sir,—I see and hear with amaze and sorrow that you continue to allow the Eton boys to hunt hares. The discussion as to whether these hares are 'heavy' or 'light' seems to me insupportably brutal. There cannot be the slightest excuse for the chase of such a small, harmless, and defenceless creature.

"Much was hoped from you when you were appointed. What have you done? To rebuke cruelty, and to teach mercy and gentleness, I venture to say—nothing. The hare-torturing by the sons of rich tradesmen and American *parvenus* is a sorry spectacle, where the youth of Gladstone was spent.

"I remain, yours obediently,
"OUIDA."

[Have our readers ever heard a hare scream in fear of its death throes? It is just one of the sounds which one can imagine might penetrate hell.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Miss M. Deane, Ipswich.—"Hospital House-keeping," by Miss C. A. Aikens, was noticed by us in our issue of March 10th, 1906, page 201. This book can be obtained from the publisher Del. T. Sutton, The National Hospital Record Office, Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A. It covers a wide range of work pertaining to housekeeping of a hospital or institution, and is the first book of the kind issued in the United States. It is the result of combined practical experience and exhaustive study on the part of the author, who is recognised as an undoubted authority in hospital work.

Nurse A. F., London.—It is quite easy for you to become a member of the National Council of Nurses, either by joining the Nurses' League of your training school if one has been organised, or if you are in favour of State Registration, as the majority of thoughtful nurses are, by becoming a member of the Society for State Registration of Nurses, which is affiliated to the National Council. No nurse need feel "an outsider" if she has sense enough to co-operate with her fellow nurses; if she is too selfish or apathetic to do this, then isolation is her just punishment.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

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.

Those interested in the efficient organisation of nursing should procure the Annual Report of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses from the Hon. Secretary. Six copies, post free, 7d., or one copy 1½d. It gives a brief review of the history of State Registration.

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 advt. page vi., or can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

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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