

attention of the midwives of London to the formation of "A Defence Association," by the midwives of "The Royal Maternity of London." We hope that other midwives not on the staff of the charity may be induced to join us so that the Association may be self-supporting. I shall be pleased to give any information to intending members. Letters may be addressed to the Secretary of the Midwives' Defence Association, 31, Finsbury Square, E.C.

LOUISA M. LEE,  
Sec. pro. tem.

#### REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I heartily agree that women who have spent three or four years of their lives in an institution in order to acquire a thorough knowledge of nursing should be protected from encroachment upon their field of labour by a host of ignorant charlatans, assuming their title and donning their garb. Any parliamentary power, therefore, which could be obtained to further this end should be earnestly sought by all right-minded people, who must know in their hearts that at some time or other each one of them will be only too glad to avail themselves of the services of these nurses, who slave in the cause of humanity.

In our earnest desire to protect the public from imposture, let us not injure our present-day properly-trained nurses by any Act which will leave them worse off than they are for at least fifty years, whilst it will, immediately it becomes law, give a false status to the ignorant. Let us not forget the first Dental Act, how it is still injuring the properly-qualified dentist by State recognition of the unqualified. See also the working of the Midwives' Act.

In the Petition suggested in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING (see Clause 2) the truth is admitted that any woman may now call herself a "trained nurse," and it therefore follows that since every Act of Parliament has a saving clause in it, these women will claim, and must be admitted to the Register as "trained nurses." If, therefore, some other name than that of "trained nurse" cannot be found for the properly trained nurse, then let her be designated "hospital qualified nurse," or "infirmiry qualified nurse," as the case may be. This distinction between hospital and infirmiry trained nurses has its significance according to that portion of the United Kingdom in which they practise. The Register should therefore be "The Register of Hospital and Infirmiry Qualified Nurses," and thereby leave alone absolutely all the unqualified.—Allow me to subscribe myself,

EXPERIENTIA DOCT.

[We think it would be a mistake to differentiate between hospital and infirmiry trained nurses; both of these, when properly qualified, should be entitled to use the title "Registered Nurse." We should advise our correspondent to read the Bill promoted by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and introduced by Mr. Munro Ferguson (Bill 253, published by Wyman, Fetter Lane, E.C.). The

Bill provides that nurses registered during the two years term of grace shall produce evidence of training satisfactory to the Provisional Nursing Council.

—ED.]

#### Comments and Replies.

*Private Nurse.*—The Equipoise Couch, which attracted so much attention at the Nursing Exhibition in St. George's Hall, Mount Street, W., in November, seems to be just what you want. It is supplied by the Equipoise Co., Ashford, Kent, and may be seen in London at the Institute of Hygiene, 34, Devonshire Street, W. It costs from 8½ to 11 guineas, and is supplied, if desired, on the hire or hire-purchase system. It is a most comfortable couch, and is of great assistance to the nurse in the case of a helpless patient, as he can raise himself, or be raised upon it without the slightest effort.

*Miss Edmonds.*—Two years is none too long to spend in a fever hospital if you want to get thorough experience in the nursing of infectious cases and can afford the time. You would get excellent training in one of the hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board. Write to the Secretary, M.A.B. Offices, The Embankment, E.C.

#### The Nurses' Petition to the Prime Minister.

The Nurses' Petition to the Prime Minister respectfully pleading that the Government will undertake to introduce a Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses into the House of Commons next Session, will be found on page iii. of the cover of this Journal. Will all who wish to support this Petition whether medical practitioners, nurses, or members of the public, cut out this page, sign the Petition, invite others to do so, and then post it to the Hon. Secretary, Nurses' Petition, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Will our readers also make it known that anyone desiring to sign this Petition can do so at the above address. The time in which to organise this Petition is very short, so we hope all readers will help.

#### Notices.

##### THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The 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.

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.

##### OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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