

bringing about legislation with the object of relieving them of their disadvantages. I hope midwives will continue to organise themselves undismayed at the threat that medical men will be against the admittance of midwives to the privileges enjoyed by members of other professions. There are many fair and high-minded gentlemen among doctors who admit the justice of our demands and even will lend us their aid when necessary.

Yours obediently,  
H. G.

#### A MIDWIVES' DEFENCE UNION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—As a constant reader of your journal, I was glad to see the interesting correspondence in last week's issue on a Midwives' Defence Union. Here in Manchester one has been formed on a sound Trades Union basis. One word of warning. Midwives must be careful to keep the management of their own affairs in their own hands. We midwives in Manchester are far from satisfied with the legislation effected by the Midwives' Act, and we consider that the Midwives' Institute of London did very wrong to agree to being represented by a medical man and not by a midwife. As all legal cases against midwives must necessarily be supported by medical evidence it is most unfair to us. I am strongly in favour of the suggestion to have midwives directly elected on to the Midwives' Board; however kind the members of the present Board may be personally a Board making laws for us should have midwives in active practice on it. At present, this is not the case. Unless something is done to give the public confidence in us, and to prevent us being treated like naughty children by fussy inspectors, very few really capable women will, in the future, undertake the work. Our patients soon realise that we are not trusted; it lowers us in their estimation, and makes our work irksome and disheartening. A Defence Union on right lines would raise us, and make us feel safe. Thanking you for giving so much valuable space to our affairs,

I am, yours truly,

A MANCHESTER MIDWIFE.

[We would remind our correspondents that the agitation for midwifery legislation was continued from almost prehistoric times—at least for thirty years—before the Bill was passed, and that during all that time the large majority of well educated midwives did not take the slightest interest in the question which affected so nearly their work and interests. Had the Midwives' Institute had some thousands of earnest and intelligent midwives as members, they could have influenced our legislators and procured a much better Act. It is only fair to remember this fact, and also that without intelligent co-operation upon the part of registered midwives, no organisation or Defence Union can succeed. Now is the time for midwives to unite and work for what they consider best. Nurses might take the situation to heart also, if they want a wise and liberal Registration Bill to become law, they must put much more energy into their agitation than they have done hitherto.—Ed.]

## Comments and Replies.

*Enquirer.*—The curriculum of nursing education which will be required under a Nurses' Registration Act is not defined in the Bill of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, introduced into the House of Commons with this object. The duty of defining the curriculum is laid upon the General Nursing Council to be created under the Act, obviously the best plan, both because this Council will be an expert body, capable of dealing with this important question, and because it would be very unwise to embody in an Act of Parliament, which special legislation would be necessary to alter, anything which will periodically need revision in order to meet the requirements of the times.

*Probationer.*—Rules to be observed in the administration of medicines are (1) Always read the directions on the label on the bottle. (2) Shake the bottle. (3) In pouring out the prescribed dose pour on the side away from the label. Nothing looks more untidy or indicative of a careless nurse than a label spotted and smeared with the drippings of doses already administered. In the administration of medicines, as in all else, attention to detail is the essence of good nursing.

*Provincial Matron.*—We feel sure that the Hon. Secretaries of any of the Leagues already established would be pleased to supply you with a copy of their rules.

## 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.

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.

### OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)