

WHICH IS LEAST TROUBLE?

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

DEAR MADAM,—In connection with the attitude of the nurse to the hand feeding and breast feeding of infants, there seems to be a considerable difference of opinion as to which method involves least trouble to her. Of course, no trained nurse worthy of her name would let this consideration weigh with her for a moment. Still, it is asserted that we do, in fact, advocate the hand feeding of infants, thus depriving the child of the natural nourishment so essential to its welfare, because hand feeding is less trouble to ourselves. Miss Amy Hughes says so; Dr. Voelcker says so. Are we fiends that we should do such injury to the little life dependent upon our care for the sake of our own personal comfort, and because we are lazy and unconscientious enough to wish to shirk the work for which we are paid.

But I notice that Dr. Hutchison, lecturing at the Institute of Hygiene recently, spoke of the "natural method" of infant feeding as the one "which fortunately gives the least trouble," and, personally, I should have thought there could have been no two opinions on this point. As there evidently are, it would be interesting to know what other maternity nurses think about it. For my own part, when I have a "bottle baby" to look after, the preparation of its food, warming it to the required heat day and night, and the cleansing of bottles, take a considerable time

Yours faithfully,

HUMANITY.

HOW I BECAME A RED HOT REBEL.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I liked greatly your little report of the Procession for our Vote, but how terrible to have to say, "Thank you, gentlemen," to navvies if they give us support! Does not that little incident just prove the degradation of the women of this country? How we women have kept our tempers so long on this suffrage question is a marvel.

Your readers may know Mrs. Carmichael Stopes by name—a pioneer University woman, the great Shakespearean expert, and a fine writer. I think her experience at Liverpool University recently, when the students behaved like mad Mohawks rather than sane men, in preventing her speaking on the question of votes for women, was even more degrading than realising that because he is a freeman, the lowest navy is a "gentleman" in comparison with the slave women of Britain.

Amongst the most turbulent of Mrs. Stopes' opponents was a great, full-blooded negro, whom his fellow students did not hesitate to permit insult an educated white lady! I was present at that abominable scene. I went into the room a quiet, law-abiding little person. I left it a red-hot rebel—and I have not the slightest hesitation in owning that had I been near that "nig." I should have struck his hideous, grinning mouth a smart blow with my umbrella—my fingers just tingled to do it.

A LANCASHIRE READER.

Comments and Replies.

Night Nurse.—We sympathise with you, as no nurse would willingly forego her cup of tea, least of all a night nurse. Have you tried Plasmon tea? We have known people who are unable to take tea under ordinary conditions, who suffer no inconvenience when they restrict themselves to Plasmon tea. It is not distinguishable from a good ordinary one.

Sister-in-Charge.—It should not be necessary to warn trained nurses never to give a patient a hot water bottle without enclosing it in a flannel cover, but, as from time to time cases of burns are reported owing to the nurse having neglected this simple and necessary precaution, it is desirable to impress this invariable rule on all new nurses until you are satisfied that they always observe it.

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 the Petition is very short, so we hope all readers will help.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE 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 supp. page iv., 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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