

THE FEEDING OF KING BABY.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have read with much appreciation the report of the Nursing Conference of December 8th. No better advice could be given to the coming nurses than what you give, viz., "to follow along the lines laid down for the profession of medicine, in the organisation of their education"; this would then make the study of obstetrical nursing a necessity. I do not know! It may have been that I was exceptionally dull, but, until I had had my maternity training, I did not thoroughly understand the all-important uterus. Now, I can more intelligently follow the prescribed treatment for my gynecological cases, and a greater interest is added to what is always an important and interesting class of cases.

Dr. Gow draws attention to the percentage of certificated nurses training in midwifery at Queen Charlotte's. Surely other training schools can show a higher percentage of this class of pupil than 15 per cent.!

Ah! how many readers would smile as they felt a home thrust by "That which is rare and unusual seems to have a fatal fascination for the pupil." I remember well having this question put to me by the "Chief" at one of his lectures: "What are the factors of labour?" No racking of my brains, nor the reproachful look on the faces of the "House Men," could bring an answer to this simple question. Instead of revising my notes, I had been devouring, in my limited off duty time, all the literature I could find on "Abnormal Pregnancies." That day I left the lecture room a sadder and wiser woman, and left the abnormalities alone until I was more sure of my groundwork.

Of all objectionable types of nurse, the most objectionable to the medical man must be the one who has attained "that stage of excellence that leaves nothing further to learn." Without exception she is most ignorant, but is unaware of the fact, as she is utterly devoid of humility.

Surely Miss Hughes does not really think that feeding a baby by bottle ("one of the most difficult problems confronting the medical man") is easier for the nurse! The use of the lactometer, the sterilising of the milk, the grading of the quantities of sugar, water, cream, etc., the cleansing and changing of the feeding bottles, and the care of the rubber teats, undoubtedly involves more work than accompanies Nature's method of feeding King Baby.

But I agree with Miss Hughes when she says the intending maternity nurse *must* love babies. Otherwise she is sure to get impatient, and probably say what she does not quite mean, like a nurse who said once of her charge, who probably was crying from pain, "I could wring the neck of the little wretch." This was repeated to the mother, who related it to many other mothers, and after that her services were not in demand. The nurse did not lose in a pecuniary way, but the Association employing her did, and prejudice was raised against all modern maternity nurses,

the Sairey Gamp type being preferred as being more affectionate and kind to the babies.

I am watching with keen interest the gradual winning over of the medical community by the able leaders agitating for our State Registration.

I am, faithfully yours,

Mauritius. ISABEL H. PENNIE, C.N.A.

Comments and Replies.

H. E. E. Milford.—When men attempt to intimidate women in the performance of their duty—for their own financial benefit—by circulating malicious untruths concerning them, a strong stand must be made, and their cowardly tactics exposed and refuted. Otherwise we should soon be reduced to the condition of serfs. Read the article to which you allude—and those which follow it—we have never submitted to be bullied, and don't intend to begin. It only encourages the evil doer.

District Nurse.—We quite agree with you as to the importance of the use of a disinfectant in the homes of the poor which is non-poisonous. We have always deprecated the use of tabloids of perchloride, or bi-chloride of mercury by district nurses and midwives. With the greatest care an accident may occur, and there is no reason for incurring this risk when efficient non-poisonous disinfectants are procurable. Amongst these Cyllin, which is used in the Royal Household, and is prepared by Jeyes Sanitary Compounds Co., Ltd., 64, Cannon Street, ranks high, on account both of its effectiveness and cheapness.

Notices.

PRIZE COMPETITION FOR HOSPITAL CHILDREN

The Editor offers a prize of Half-a-Crown to any child under twelve years of age, and an inmate of a hospital, or convalescent home, for the best essay of 250 words on "How I Amuse Myself in Bed."

CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION.

1. Essays must reach the Editor by March 30th.
2. Competitors must write on one side of the paper only.
3. Each competitor must enclose in a separate envelope, with his or her essay, addressed to the Editor, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W., the following Coupon, in which the required information has been inserted:

Children's Prize Essay Coupon.

Name of Child.....

Age

Name of Hospital or Convalescent Home.....

.....

Certificate to be signed by Ward Sister or Nurse.

I certify that the essay by

now a patient in

is his/her unaided work.

Signature

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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