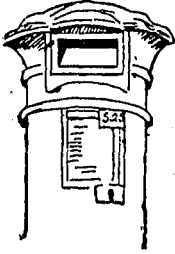


## Letters to the Editor.

NOTES, QUERIES, &c.



*Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in any way hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

### OUR GUINEA PRIZE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Thank you very much for the cheque for £1 ls., received on May 4th. I was surprised and delighted to find I was at last the lucky winner of the "Puzzle Prize." With best wishes for the continued success of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, which I read every week with ever growing interest in its ideals, and politics,

I am, yours faithfully,  
EMILY DINNIE.

Kent Nursing Institution,  
West Malling, Kent.

### PARCHMENT LAURELS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The R.B.N.A. seem always to do the wrong thing, but "A Nightingale Nurse" is a little too emphatic in denouncing the proposal to bestow an Honorary Diploma on Miss Florence Nightingale. Her acceptance would be an honour to the R.B.N.A., and doubtless encourage others to pay two guineas for these useless parchments. It appears that one has but to flout that Association to at once command its cringing respect. Miss Nightingale strenuously opposed the R.B.N.A. in its palmy days, and she is not likely to give it her benediction now. It is most unlikely that she will permit her great name to be used as a bait under the circumstances.

Yours truly,  
A REGISTRAR.

### A LIVING WAGE FOR MIDWIVES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The question of a living wage for midwives, which is receiving some attention in your columns is one on which midwives will do well to concentrate their best attention. If they do not seek for and apply the remedy no one else will. If they are content to take the pay of unskilled workers for skilled work no one will beg them to take more. But individuals can do little to raise the financial value of their work. This is the day of co-operation. If we look at the trades, it is through their co-operative societies that they bring pressure to bear. The medical profession has established a scale of professional charges recognised by the public, and midwives decide upon a minimum fee and stick to it if they intend to insist upon a living wage. It

would be better to forego a fee altogether sometimes in a really destitute case than to accept the miserable pittance which is now often considered a midwife's due, but where necessary a parish doctor is provided, her services being available on an order from the relieving officer. The large majority of people, however, can pay if it is understood that they are expected to do so, and, as they are well aware that they will need assistance for months before the event, it is easy for them to pay a small sum weekly into a Provident Club, if they are taught to do so. Combination and self help on the part of midwives would teach this lesson. I do not agree with your correspondent who thinks that "only obstetric nurses will be in demand" in the future. At once then there are two people to pay instead of one, the doctor and the nurse, and if people cannot afford to pay one person a living wage, how can they pay two?

Yours faithfully,  
A BELIEVER IN CO-OPERATION.

### "THE VOTE COVERS ALL."

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

DEAR MADAM,—It is instructive to nurses to note the power of the vote in connection with professional organisation. You recorded in your last issue the second reading of a Bill for the Prohibition of Medical Practice by Companies, and a similar one to Restrict the Practice of Dentists. The objects of the first-mentioned Bill were, as Lord Hylton stated, "to protect, on the one hand, an honourable profession, and on the other the health and lives of the poor, whom it would chiefly serve." The second reading of both Bills was carried at once.

The objects of these Bills, and very laudable ones, too, are precisely those which are influencing nurses in their desire to obtain the legal regulation of their profession. But they are "without the essential weapon with which to fight." They have no vote, so can bring no pressure to bear upon Parliament, and when was it ever known to legislate without pressure? It appears to me that every nurse who desires State Registration must, as a means to this end, throw herself heart and soul into the women's suffrage movement. Until the woman's vote is secure I confess I have not much hope of any satisfactory legislation for any class of women, nurses included.

Yours obediently,  
VOTELESS.

## Comments and Replies.

*Mrs. Hampson.*—The safest flannelette to use is Horrockses', which is not more inflammable than ordinary long cloth. You should be careful to note that "Horrockses" is stamped on every five yards of the selvedge. Inferior flannelettes have been the cause of very many deaths from their liability to ignite. They should never be used, and there is no necessity to use them while so satisfactory an article can be obtained.

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