

ing school of its kind in England—the entrance fee being £35 for five months; uniform, washing, instruments, lecture books, etc., extra—the nurses used to take their meals in a stone-floored room below the area railings, packed like sardines in a box, elbow pressing elbow round the table, often plentifully besprinkled with crumbs from a previous meal. The bread was always placed on the table in baskets, and the butter served in small chunks on two dinner plates. The knives were “cleaned” on Sundays only, the cruet was minus the handle, the necks were cracked off the vinegar bottles, and the stoppers missing. The staff nurse had to carve for over twenty women, as well as eat her own dinner in the half hour allotted for that purpose. The cup of tea before going on duty—6.30 a.m.—was always taken by the nurses standing in a stone passage. It was served without saucers or tea-spoons, and stirred by the nurses’ own pencils and empty thermometer cases. I wish it to be understood I am merely stating facts, and not making a complaint. Doubtless this treatment is necessary to impart the best English training. I merely mention it to draw attention to the possible fact that in a land of women’s freedom like America the serving of nurses’ food, even in a crack London hospital, might call forth condemnation.

Yours faithfully,

AN ENGLISHWOMAN.

ILLOGICAL LOGIC.

To the Editor of the “British Journal of Nursing.”

DEAR MADAM,—With respect to the letter of “Logic” in your issue of the 25th Jan., may I be permitted to say that it is rather illogical to expect people who have—rightly or wrongly—lost faith in any system, to act as if they retained faith in it. You would hardly expect a person who had become a vegetarian to insist on a meat diet for another vegetarian who neither believed in nor desired it; and you would scarcely expect a nurse who had become a Christian Scientist to force a doctor on a patient who neither believed in nor desired medical attendance.

I am not discussing now the merits of Christian Science or ordinary medical practice. I am insisting on the fact that numbers of trained nurses, for what are sufficient reasons to them, have become Christian Scientists, and you can scarcely expect them to act as if they had not.

Yours truly,

FREDERICK DIXON.

Christian Science Publication Committee,
23 and 24, Clun House,
Surrey Street, Strand, W.C.

[Our correspondent pointed out that it was illogical for Christian Scientists to call in a medical man to set a fracture and to refuse to summon one to treat a case of inflamed lung; to depend on Divine interposition in the latter case and not in the former. She argues, if medical aid is invoked in one case, why not in the other?—ED.]

We regret that many letters are unavoidably held over till next week through pressure on our space.

Comments and Replies.

Private Nurse.—A useful little booklet containing tested recipes is that on “Invalid and Convalescent Cookery,” prepared by Miss Mary E. Birt. It is published by Messrs. John Wright and Co., Bristol, price 6d.

Maternity Nurse.—A transverse section from a Lemco cork, about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in thickness, makes an excellent basis for an umbilical pad in case of a protruding navel in an infant. This is covered with absorbent wool and sterilised linen, and is kept in place by the flannel binder.

Three Prize Competitions.

The Editor offers the following prizes:—

FOR AN ARTICLE OF PRACTICAL VALUE TO MIDWIVES.

- 1.—A Prize of £1 10s. for the best Article of Practical Value to Midwives, containing not more than 1,200 words. Articles competing for this prize must reach the Editor not later than February 15th. The name of the successful competitor will be published in our issue of February 29th.

FOR THE MOST INTERESTING FOREIGN LETTER.

- 2.—A prize of £1 10s. for the most interesting Foreign Letter of Nursing Interest, containing not more than 1,200 words. Letters competing for this prize must reach the Editor not later than March 4th. The name of the successful competitor will be published in our issue of March 14th.

OUR PUZZLE COMPETITION.

- 3.—Details will be found on Page xii. of our advertisement columns. Competitors are asked to note that for the next two months the prizes given in connection with this competition will be “A History of Nursing” (two volumes), by Miss M. A. Nutting, Professor of Domestic Administration in Teachers’ College, Columbia University, New York; and Miss L. L. Dock, Hon. Sec., International Council of Nurses.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING COMPETITIONS

1 AND 2.

Each competitor must enclose with his or her article a sealed envelope, outside which is written the title of the article only, and inside the title of the article with the author’s full name and address. The covering envelope should bear the words “Prize Competition.”

The Editor reserves to herself the right to publish any of the articles received for the competition. In such event payment will be made at the current rate; such article to become the property and copyright of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. In each case, in awarding the prize, illustrations accompanying the articles will be considered as giving them additional value.

All competitions must be addressed to the Editor, at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)