

is an expert in her profession, and give her a free hand in her department. These are men and women who have the welfare of their work at heart, and are above that petty love of wanting to show their authority which seems so dear to many of the young doctors who come straight out after their final examination, to have charge of hospitals here.

As yearly a greater number of hospitals are introducing nursing where none was before attempted, and many of these are appointing English trained nurses as Nursing Superintendents, this has become a very pressing question.

Can anyone suggest a practical solution of the difficulty?

Yours faithfully,

SANSI.

[Miss Nightingale lays down as a fundamental condition of a good training school for nurses that authority and discipline over all the female staff must be in the hands of a trained Lady Superintendent, herself the best nurse in the hospital. Any departure from this precept is bound to depreciate the efficiency of the school.—Ed.]

A PRACTICAL SUGGESTION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—To those of your readers who feel inspired by your account of the St. Pancras School for Mothers to do something towards improving the knowledge of the mothers in their own neighbourhood, may I suggest that an excellent booklet on the subject is obtainable for one penny: "How to Manage a Baby," by Mrs. Frank Stephens, published by Horace Marshall and Son, 125, Fleet Street, E.C. It is a comprehensive and most useful little book for distribution in cottage homes. I write from personal experience, having given away many copies and watched results. In some cases it was not read; in others it was read and partially or wholly ignored; but in several instances it was thankfully welcomed, and its teaching effected a revolution in the lives of the babies and their mothers. Moreover, each of these mothers has become a centre from which spreads most influential teaching, for in villages the mothers have an unaccountable and pathetic faith in each other's knowledge of infant management. One sometimes forgets that the working-class mother has rarely a well-trained memory, and though she may understand when one talks to her, she usually forgets much of the information in a week or two. When the knowledge is given her in book form she reads it frequently.

Another excellent booklet for distribution is "Food in Relation to Health," by Mrs. Earle and Mrs. Bryan; published by Simpkin Marshall, price twopence.

It is so true that the only hope for regeneration in this and other urgent matters lies in the education of public opinion; and that becomes possible, and even simple, if each one of us who has gained the privilege of enlightenment will undertake the education of one or more units. The "Snowball

System" has already proved effectual in other departments of philanthropy.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

M. M. G. B.

THE MIDWIFE QUESTION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of the 13th inst., I was glad to see the very sensible letter of a "Certified Midwife." I am sure it is a matter that requires very serious consideration. I see no reason to bring more midwives on the unemployment list by free training. The existing qualified midwife needs due consideration and better returns for her time and money spent in order to obtain her hospital training. It appears to be very uphill work for the midwife in private practice; no matter what her qualifications may be, she does not receive that consideration that should be given. There are times when qualifications and experience appear to be very little thought about. She can be passed over, and left out in the cold too often—not very encouraging, surely.

I am, dear Madam,

Faithfully yours,

Pontefract.

NURSE AND MIDWIFE.

Comments and Replies.

Correspondent, Kashmir.—The Lectures on Babies delivered at the Infants' Hospital, Westminster, by Dr. Ralph Vincent, including the one on "Gastric and Intestinal Disorder," are published in book form by Messrs. Ballière, Tindall, and Cox, 8, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C., price 2s. 6d. Those on Ear, Nose, and Throat Operations have not been published in a separate volume. The BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for November 30th, 1907, contained an article on the "opsonic index" under the heading "Medical Matters." This Journal has always, while advocating the establishment of a minimum standard of education for trained nurses in the future, recognised and appreciated the good work done by those trained in past days when the standards now considered essential were not in force.

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 PUZZLE COMPETITION.

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

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)