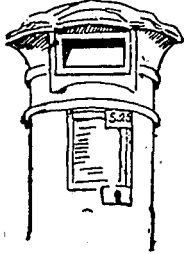


## Letters to the Editor.



*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.*

### THE SPREAD OF DISEASE BY FLIES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I notice that the spread of tuberculosis by flies has now become an accepted fact. I think there are other diseases for the dissemination of which they may also be responsible. Take malaria. I have had some experience of nursing in the tropics, and, do what we would, we could not keep the flies away from the food. One might keep it in the ice chest or cover it over with muslin, but the moment it was placed on the table the flies descended upon it, especially upon jam and sweet things, in solid black masses. It is pretty certain that a short time previously they had been infesting garbage, decaying animal matter, etc., in places where mosquitoes abounded. I fully believe that some cases of malaria, and probably of intestinal disturbance, so common in the tropics, and even of dysentery, should be placed to the account of the flies. If that was the case in a hospital, where we took every possible precaution, what must it have been in the dark, unventilated native huts, or the filthy hotels with which the place abounded?

I am,  
Dear Madam,  
Yours faithfully,  
MATRON.

### MANAGEMENT OF THE THIRD STAGE OF LABOUR.

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

DEAR MADAM,—“Other times, other manners.” When I trained in midwifery, one of the things most deeply impressed upon me, and which I, in my turn, impressed upon succeeding generations of pupil midwives, was to “place the left hand on the fundus of the uterus as soon as the child’s head was born, and never to remove it for any reason whatever until the placenta was born and the uterus found to be well contracted.” To be careless in this respect was, we were assured by our teachers, to subject the patient to the risk of *post partum* hæmorrhage, and every midwife in those days, unless she was most casual, preached and practised that the first duty of the attendant during the third stage was to “hold on” to the uterus and to “rub it up” if it relaxed at all, and, further, to express the placenta if it had not come away naturally within twenty minutes at the latest.

Now this is all wrong, we are told. The uterus and abdominal walls of the patient should not be touched after the birth of the child until the

placenta is born; the placenta should on no account be expressed. The two teachings are detrimentally opposed. Which is right? I am inclined to think that there is much to be said for the latter method, for Nature is a fine manager, and knows what she is about, as a rule, and, if we are not there to teach her how to carry on her own business, manages it herself quite nicely. At one time our consciences were not happy until we had administered a douche to every patient after delivery. Now we know better, and that they are risky at best, even when there is a clear indication for them, and are to be condemned as a routine practice. The lesson, I think, is to interfere when you must, and that promptly and efficiently, but at other times to assist Nature on her own lines, not to try to “go one better.”

I am,  
Dear Madam,  
Yours faithfully,  
CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

## Comments and Replies.

*Senex.*—The *Canadian Nurse* is the organ of the nurses in the Dominion of Canada. It is issued monthly and costs one dollar (4s. 2d.) a year. Postage in addition. All communications should be addressed to the *Canadian Nurse*, Toronto, Canada.

*Midwife, Hackney.*—Messrs. W. H. Bailey and Son, of 38, Oxford Street, W., supply a convenient bag for midwives. One in waterproof cloth, at 3s. 9d., can be had fitted at 8s. 6d., or one in cowhide with a removable lining at 9s. 9d. is supplied fitted at 30s.

### NOTICE.

#### OFFICIAL ORGAN.

The BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is the official organ of the following important Nursing societies: The Matrons’ Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

The International Council of Nurses.

The National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses

The Registered Nurses’ Society.

The School Nurses’ League.

As their official organ is widely read by the members of these societies, the Editor will at all times be pleased to find space for items of news from the Secretaries and members.

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## Notices.

### OUR PUZZLE COMPETITION.

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