

Society which has really inspired the whole movement for nursing reform.

With compliments to the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for its loyal part in this campaign,

I am,

Yours etc.,

JULIA HURLSTON,

Member, League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses.

#### BRIBING MOTHERS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Time and distance have prevented my expressing my opinions about the above subject.

Among the large pile of French brochures which are weekly sent to my father is one called *Le Journal de l'Accoucheuse*. All the articles are written by medical men or by *des Sage-femmes de première classe*, i.e., those who have undergone the higher course of midwifery, which lasts for two years, and costs them about £140 in fees.

I have been struck by these extremely capable articles, but one which I read lately completely took my breath away.

It dealt with the depopulation of France; last year there was a minority of 150,000 births from the preceding one.

After many eloquent lamentations on the sad fact, the writer reveals the number of evil, unpunished abortionists and suggests the following cure: "That the Government or mother country should provide home and lodging for all girls who have got into trouble, and help to all wives and mothers who are unable to support their offspring, and thus resort to illegal means to prevent childbirth! She states that one abortionist alone had admitted on her deathbed that she had attended 10,000 cases during her lifetime.

The healthy production and the rearing of these infants are her theme.

Moral: If France is driven to uphold immorality and to gather together all her illegitimate children and rear them, surely, a little bribery to English mothers—nay, a little help to needy mothers—is a very innocent practice.

The new "Schools for Mothers" and the cheap dinners they give (which have started in London and which are copied from the schools in Paris) are a good work, and as one who has done many years of nursing amongst the sick poor in their homes I can testify that the modern mothers are beginning to grasp many ideas of hygiene and of infant dieting, which it was impossible to teach their mothers and the midwives of their period. Unquestionably this new movement of teaching and helping mothers (call it bribery if you will) is a movement in the right direction. Nations are beginning to realise the importance and the responsibilities of the government, and of the well-to-do towards the mothers and their offspring of the populace. They are the soldiers, the labourers, the artisans, the pedestal of the brain workers. Surely it is a small thing if we in return give them

some of our brains and money when we have got any.

Yours faithfully,

EDLA WORTABET.

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### Comments and Replies.

*Private Nurse*.—You would find the Thermos Flask very useful, as by its means food can be kept hot or cold as required. It is made by A. E. Gutmann and Co., 8, Long Lane, E.C., and can be obtained from all the leading stores throughout the kingdom. The price of a pint flask is 2s., or of a quart size 3s.

*Mrs. Thomson*.—There are a number of posts just now under County Councils open to nurses to assist Medical Inspectors of School Children. The work is very congenial to many nurses, and is of value in helping to raise the standard of the national physique, and therefore of national efficiency.

*Pupil Midwife*.—The points of importance in regard to the dressing applied to an infant's cord are that it should keep the cord dry and aseptic. Any dressing which will effect these objects is suitable.

*Matron, Birmingham*.—The most useful *Materia Medica for Nurses* with which we are acquainted is the one by Miss L. L. Dock, published by Putnam's, 24, Bedford Street, W.C.

#### 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.

Exclusive news being copyright, papers quoting from our columns must give the name of this journal as the source of their information.

### Notices.

#### THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

All those desirous of helping on the important movement of this Society to obtain an Act providing for the Legal Registration of Trained Nurses can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

#### OUR PUZZLE COMPETITION.

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

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)