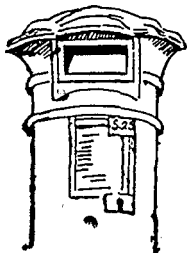


Letters to the Editor.



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.

LADIES' NEEDLEWORK GUILDS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have read with great interest—and I must say envy also—the account published in the Journal last week of the Ladies' Working Association in connection with the Royal United Hospital, Bath. One of the most onerous tasks of a hospital Matron is to keep the stock of linen in a good condition, and the annual expenditure necessary to accomplish this means no small amount of money, and much planning and scheming on the part of the Matron. Here, all this duty falls on me, and the half-yearly stock-taking reveals many articles which must be condemned as worn out, but which the hospital, which is a poor one, can ill afford to replace. The formation of a Ladies' Association which would undertake to supply the necessary linen would be the greatest possible assistance and relief to me, and I sincerely hope it may be possible to inaugurate one. The plan seems so useful and so practical that I wonder any hospital is without a society of this kind. The relief to many an over-worked and anxious Matron would be great indeed.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
HARRASSED MATRON.

THE NURSING SCHOOL AT THE SALPÊTRIÈRE

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

DEAR MADAM,—It was a great pleasure to me, as, I am sure, it must have been to many others who attended the wonderful International Nursing Congress in Paris last year, to read the account you published last week of the formal inauguration of the Nursing School at the Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris, now an assured success, by a Minister of the French Republic.

How vividly one can picture the scene—the distinguished officials grouped round the Chairman, the rows of earnest faces of the pupils and their teachers in the handsome lecture hall, and the speeches, earnest, eloquent, and polished, of which we had such fine examples during the Congress. I could almost hear, as I read it, the speech of M. Mesureur, and I congratulate from my heart those by whose perseverance and ability the school has been brought to its present position. Its possibilities of development and of influencing the future of nursing in France are almost unlimited. Most sincerely do I wish it and its pupils success.

Yours faithfully,
A VISITOR TO PARIS IN 1907.

THE MODERN MIDWIFE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In Dr. Gordon's article on "The Causes of Puerperal Infection" he states in column 2 that from a statistical inquiry it has been shown that the modern obstetric nurses with diplomas have more cases of puerperal fever in their practice than the old *bonâ-fide*, due, he considers, to the fact that the old-fashioned midwives do not make so many vaginal examinations. Would Dr. Gordon inform me as to where this statistical inquiry was made?

My personal experience as inspector of midwives has been the reverse. The *bonâ-fides* have more septicæmia cases than the trained midwives, though it is marvellous that they do not have a greater number, and I also find that the majority of the *bonâ-fides* do examine and frequently, and "if they have time they previously smear a bit of lard on their fingers," or, since the Act was enforced, antiseptic lubricant, but they consider their hands quite clean, if they wash them before leaving their own house.

I have found that the greater number of septic cases occur among patients who have a "monthly" nurse and doctor.

I remain,
Yours faithfully,
A COUNTY INSPECTOR OF MIDWIVES.

Comments and Replies.

Maternity Nurse.—It has been well said that there are as many individualities of stomachs as there are of faces. For this reason each infant should be carefully studied, and any divergence from the normal in the stools, showing that the digestive system is out of order, should be reported to the medical attendant.

Miss Evans.—The training school concerning which you enquire is of good standing. Write to the Matron and ask when there is a vacancy, and if she will give you an interview. You will probably have to wait for a vacancy.

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.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Editor will at all times be pleased to consider articles of a suitable nature for insertion in this Journal—those on practical nursing are specially invited.

Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole 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](#)