

hardening to daily life, while still under supervision, must be of the utmost benefit.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
A SISTER IN A SANATORIUM.

"THE MODERN MIDWIFE."

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

DEAR MADAM,—In answer to "County Inspector's" letter I may say that the statistics to which I referred in my lecture are to be found in the report of the Medical Officer of Health for Manchester for 1905, page 244.

I am not inclined, however, to disagree with "County Inspector," and I used the statistics to which I have referred merely to point out that the modern midwife was not infallible, and that the making of too frequent vaginal examinations—I quite grant with sterile hands—was a point to which her attention might be profitably directed. I have no intention of opening the broader question as to the comparative responsibility for puerperal sepsis amongst the various classes of midwives.

With "County Inspector's" concluding paragraph I quite agree.

Yours faithfully,
A. KNYVETT GORDON.
Monsall Hospital, Newton Heath, Manchester.

THE MIDWIVES' BOARD'S FINANCES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I think those persons who disapprove of the suggested Registration Fee in the Nurses' Bill will do well to study the finances of the Central Midwives' Board. The wholly inadequate fee now charged by that Board, of one guinea, only leaves, I learn, 7s. for the working expenses of the Board, as out of each guinea paid for examination and certification the examiners get 15s.—a very reasonable fee. This leads to two evils—voluntary work upon the part of the Board, and ultimately to support out of the rates. Any honourable status for midwives is thus rendered impossible. What requires a remedy is the very high charges which women—many of them trained nurses—have to pay for the short term of training in midwifery; £20 for instance, at the London Hospital, and more in several lying-in hospitals. £40,000 a year, I believe, is within the mark of what working women are paying for midwifery training annually in this country, to enter a profession, moreover, at which it is difficult to earn a reasonable living. If the lying-in hospitals charged a little less for training midwives could then pay a registration fee which would cover the cost of the Central Board, as it ought to do. It is the greatest mistake to become pauperised. See the result: When a Departmental Committee is appointed by the Privy Council to consider the workings of the Midwives' Act, the class of workers it affects are entirely ignored. Midwives should rouse themselves and agitate for (1) Amendment of the Midwives' Act, to provide direct representation of midwives on the Central Board. (2) A living wage for their work. (3) Professional representation on the Departmental Committee. Now is the time to see what the Midwives' Defence Association

is made of. No doubt it will tackle all these important matters; unless it does what is its use?

A CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

Comments and Replies.

Twenty-two.—The age at which probationers are admitted to general hospitals for training constantly tends to decrease. You need not be afraid that your age will disqualify you in all hospitals. Try again.

Invalid.—You could have no better material for your purpose than the Peri-Lusta threads, which are charming, and can be obtained in every variety of colour. Write to Peri-Lusta, 19, Ludgate Hill, E.C., for patterns.

Monthly Nurse.—A baby should not develop thrush if its mouth is kept clean, but, in the event of its doing so medical advice should be sought. The thrush may not be confined to the mouth, but may spread to the digestive tract.

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.

An application form for those who wish to become members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses will be found on page iii. of cover. It will soon be too late to help on the important work of this Society. No habitual reader of this journal can, we feel sure, be content to stand aside and let others found the future Profession of Nursing. Now is the time to help.

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.

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