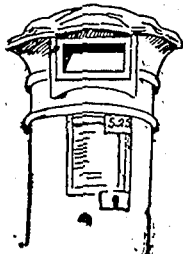


Letters to the Editor.



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.

OUR GUINEA PRIZE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I beg to acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of £1 ls. I was delighted to find I was the successful one this time.

Yours truly,

MABEL COLLET.

East Suffolk Hospital, Ipswich.

THE INFIRM POOR.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Nurses whose work lies amongst the poor must be keenly interested in the Report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws, for, in one way and another, their patients are constantly coming into touch with these laws.

If there is one thing more than another which impresses one in regard to the respectable poor it is their horror of "the House." There is no sacrifice which they will not make to keep out of it. They will conceal their poverty, they will suffer privation in silence to the verge of starvation in many instances, sooner than accept the only shelter which their country is prepared to offer them. There must be something amiss with a system which produces such results. I have for a long time believed that the system of withholding aid from the necessitous until they are driven to pauperism, instead of granting them the temporary help which would tide them over a difficult time, and prevent them from becoming paupers, is a most short-sighted as well as callous policy, and that the system of driving the poor into the workhouse, or refusing them relief altogether, is a most extravagant one. Moreover, I am convinced that with a small allowance, and the help of a district nurse, many of the infirm might spend their days happily amongst their own people instead of being forced into isolation and uncongenial society in workhouse wards. I rejoice in the old age pensions which have brought happiness, and comparative comfort to many old people, and I am convinced that it would be most economical from the point of view of the State if many of the infirm had similar allowances, even those who have not reached the age qualifying them for a pension, and if district nurses were employed to look after them as paid servants of the State. There can be no comparison in the cost of allowing an invalid 5s. or even 7s. 6d. a week in his or her own home, and providing the services of a district nurse, who could care for many such invalids, and of maintaining the same person in a workhouse ward, when the upkeep of the building, the salaries of officials, and all the expense

which seems inseparable from a municipal institution, are taken into consideration. Those who know the poor can have no doubt which is the more humane and acceptable method. If it is objected that the homes of the poor are insanitary, then they should be made wholesome. That is not a valid reason for driving the poor out of their homes, but for making those homes habitable.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
DISTRICT NURSE.

Comments and Replies.

Mrs. James.—Glaxo is a standardised and modified form of dried milk, and is a very useful preparation. It is supplied by the firm of this name, 127, Minories, E.

Miss M. Bird.—We should advise you to procure "The Englishwoman's Year Book," published by Adam and Charles Black, Soho Square, London, W., price 2s. 6d. It gives full particulars as to the various examining bodies. Particulars as to the Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Board may be obtained from the Hon. Sec., 1, Adelaide Buildings, London Bridge, E.C.

Housewife.—Schweppes, Ltd., 64, Hammer-smith Road, W., supply "Vindevie," a pure wine without alcohol, sterilised by the Kilm process, and Proset, a delicious, non-alcoholic fruit beverage, which, at the low price of 2d. a bottle, should become a popular drink.

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.

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