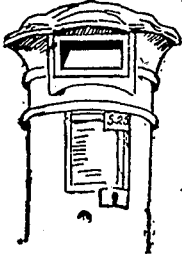


Letters to the Editor.



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 CENTRAL EXAMINATION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Since the Central Midwives' Board instituted a central examination, although the Act does not apply to Scotland, may I say from personal experience that midwifery training has greatly improved in the Lying-in Hospitals in this country, and the pupils and Matrons are most keen to work up to a high standard, and pass the examination. Several nurses from Scotland went up to London for this examination in the early days, and now, as the last pass list proves, pupils from Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, and Glasgow passed last month, probably at the Newcastle centre. My experience as a worker in a maternity hospital is that the competition has had a most remarkable effect upon our work. Everything is now kept up to a much higher standard.

The United Kingdom is far too small to set up two or three systems of registration, and what the Central Midwives' Act is doing for the education of midwives, a General Registration Council could do for nurses. It will be fatal to nursing in Scotland if we are deprived of the same central examination, as our colleagues in England and Ireland. Registration without a central examination would be waste of time and money.

I note the English Bill makes provision to hold examinations, where and when convenient, so the statement made to us at Glasgow and repeated in the press, that Scottish nurses would have the expense of going to London for examination was presumably purposely misleading, and it is most unfair to mislead nurses when so much is at stake.

What we ought to have is one Bill for the United Kingdom—one General Registration Council, with a Scottish and an Irish Branch, and convenient centres arranged in each country for the examinations. An interchange of inspectors and examiners from the different countries would be most salutary, and keep us all up to the mark.

Yours truly,

A SCOTTISH SISTER.

[In every county and American State where State Registration is in force a central examination after definite training is the one portal to the Nurses' Registration.—Ed.]

HARE HUNTING IN MARCH.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In a recent correspondence with the Humanitarian League, the Head-Master of Eton made a great point of the fact that he had

curtailed the length of the hare-hunting season at Eton in order to avoid the risk of killing gravid hares. It seems that the date fixed by Canon Lyttelton is March 25th. This, however, is far too late to effect the desired result. Even a sporting paper, the *County Gentleman*, has suggested March 15th as "the latest date" on which hounds should be taken out; and we are informed that the cadets of the Royal Naval College at Osborne bring their sport to a close between the 1st and 10th of March, according to weather.

It seems strange that Eton should not only lag behind public opinion in this matter, but should refuse to comply even with the best sporting opinion.

I am, yours faithfully,

JOSEPH COLLINSON.

Wolsingham, S.O., Co. Durham.

THE OPEN AIR TREATMENT OF MENTAL DISEASES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have been struck when visiting some asylums with the airless atmosphere in the wards and patients' rooms, and have, therefore, been specially interested to observe in our Journal that the open air treatment has been found of much value in mental disease at Craig House, Edinburgh. The treatment seems most rational.

Yours faithfully,

ONLOOKER.

Comments and Replies.

Private Nurse.—The comfort and convenience of a gas fire, in a small flat where economy of domestic labour must be thought of are very great. For instance, a bedroom fire at night is a consideration when grates have to be cleaned by a busy maid in the morning, but it is quite easy to indulge in one when a gas fire is installed. We believe you would find one most useful. All information may be obtained from the Gaslight and Coke Company, Horseferry Road, Westminster, S.W.

Nurse Humphries.—Picric Acid is used for the purpose of cleaning and healing suppurating burns, and is applied through wet gauze. It should be frequently removed until the coagulated lymph covers the sore. It must be borne in mind that poisoning may occur from its use, indicated by the yellow colour of the skin, mucous membranes, and urine.

Notices.

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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