

to the enrolment of two sets of midwives referred to by Sir George Fordham at their last meeting. To do so would be for the Board to throw away with one hand what they have done with the other.

Yours faithfully,

LOGIC.

NURSES' FEES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I hold a certificate for three years' training at a general hospital, and am a member of a Nurses' Co-operation. Our fees are tabulated according to the nature of the case, so that the patient knows what he has to pay. Two guineas a week is the usual charge for general cases of illness. Recently I went to a case where a once member of our staff was instituted, and working on her own for a medical man to whom she had been introduced by our "Co." I found she was charging £3 8s. a week for a medical case. The patient's wife immediately came to the conclusion that I was not so highly trained as my colleague, and between them they treated me like a probationer. Again, nursing a case of colotomy with a nurse trained only in a nursing home, who was receiving a salary of about £35 a year, the proprietress charged £4 4s. a week for her services. I was asked by the daughter to do night duty and take £1 1s. a week. Again, hospitals which farm out nurses invariably undersell private nurses, as they can afford to do. Now, is it not time that something was done about fees—to protect the public from sharks, and nurses who are content with reasonable remuneration? Can this question come up for discussion at the International Congress of Nurses—it is important?

Yours truly,

CO-OPERATION.

[A room holding 120 has been reserved at Caxton Hall for small conferences, so that those interested in particular questions can discuss them. Nursing finance is important—more so than the majority of nurses realise.—ED.]

A QUESTION FOR THE MIDWIVES' INSTITUTE.
To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—In the debate on the "Representation of the People" Bill in the House of Commons, recently, I notice that Mr. Julius Bertram, Member for Hitchin, Herts, was one of the most active opponents of the measure. He reiterated the well-known objection to the extension of the franchise to women at any time, and under any circumstances, maintained that the promoters of the Bill were not entitled to bring forward the argument that women desired the vote, and argued that members were there as representing men voters, not women voters.

The women of Hitchin will no doubt know how to deal with a candidate who is an active promoter of the Women's Anti-Suffrage League, at the next election in that borough. I have reason to believe that Mr. Bertram's male constituents will have something to say to his anti-woman attitude when that time comes also. But meanwhile there are many midwives who are very indignant that a

pronounced opponent of their professional enfranchisement, which means, amongst other things, their right to earn a living wage, should be employed by the Central Midwives' Board to act as their solicitor, to get up cases against midwives concerning whom charges have been preferred, and to be paid a quite substantial sum annually out of the money paid in fees to the Board by this section of women workers, to whom he refuses the most elementary right of every citizen.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

AN INDIGNANT CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

[Another of life's little ironies!—ED.]

Comments and Replies.

Private Nurse.—Pancreatin is described by Miss L. L. Dock in her "Materia Medica for Nurses" (published by Messrs. G. P. Putnams, 24, Bedford Street, Strand) as a preparation from the pancreas of the pig, not official. Pancreatic extract digests starchy and proteid substances, and pancreatin, which is not given alone as a medicine, is very largely used in preparing artificially digested foods. It must be remembered in making pancreatised food that the process of digestion takes place in the presence of moderate heat, and is stopped at the boiling point or by extreme cold.

Three Years' Certificate.—We understand that there are still vacancies on Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve. Applications should be made to the Matron-in-Chief at the War Office, S.W.

Would-be Probationer.—Many of the large Poor Law Infirmarys now give an excellent training, and an advantage often obtained is that it includes preparation for the examination of the Central Midwives Board, which is rarely included in the three years' curriculum at a general hospital.

Correspondent, Paris.—The Transactions of the International Conference on Nursing, held at Paris, can be obtained from the Hon. Treasurer, I.C.N., price 2s. 3d. post free.

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 of last week. 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.

OUR PUZZLE COMPETITION.

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

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