

## TATTERED TOWELS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—My attention has been called to a paragraph in a recent issue of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING about my appearance before the Board, and asking for half-a-dozen towels and a clock, and that I asserted having to wipe the patients with an old shirt. Also having been asked to leave the Board-room owing to my nursing scarlet fever. I hope I am still in time to contradict a few of these statements in this week's issue, as statements of this character, especially when incorrect, often give rise to erroneous impressions.

I certainly appeared before the Board, and asked for the above-mentioned articles, but the term "old shirt" was not uttered by me. One would think on reading the paragraph that there wasn't a towel in the Hospital. (It sounds rather absurd—a Fever Hospital without towels.) This, however, is not so, as I have lots of towels; but continual using and washing of same necessitates some of them becoming worn or condemned. These so-called condemned towels have to be replaced, and as the Glenties Guardians do their best at all times to keep down expenses, they often, therefore, refuse the very necessities in order to save the pockets of the ratepayers. As I could not very well do without the towels, I thought the best course to pursue was to make a personal application, and explain why I was so short of them. I was asked to leave the Board-room by a member, not the Chairman, although he didn't relish my being there, even if I were disinfected twenty times. The fever nurses in Glenties are kept out of all society—even Divine Worship on Sundays won't bid them enter.

The remark at the bottom: "We wonder if 'cross-infections' occur at Glenties Fever Hospital"—that puts the finishing touch on. Certainly it is hardly necessary to say that where trained nurses are employed every precaution is taken against "cross-infection," but even in Glenties the nurses have their feelings, also their reputations, at stake, if such should occur.

I must admit, we are very much out of date in Donegal, but have got to live, or exist—which?

(Nurse) A. R. SWEENEY.

Fever Hospital, Glenties,  
Co. Donegal.

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FLOATING CRÈCHES ON FATHER THAMES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—No one who is acquainted with the conditions of infant life at the East End can fail to appreciate the importance of the suggestion made in your editorial article recently, that London should have its floating infants' hospital on the river. I should like to go just one step further, and suggest that provision should be made in the same way for the babies who are not sick, but are in daily danger of becoming so, in close and fetid alleys and tenement buildings. We know how the mothers in the East End of London are to a large extent the wage earners, and are compelled, if they wish to keep the wolf from the door, to go back to work within a few weeks of the birth of their infants. Consequently,

these babies are deprived of the care and attention which the more happily-placed mother lavishes on her offspring.

Why should not crèches as well as hospitals be arranged on the river? It would be the best chance that the children could have, and no one can estimate how much the standard of the national physique would be raised if the puny, half-starved, pale-faced children, whose appearance makes one's heart ache, spent the first year of their lives in the fresh air and were well fed and clad. It is a suggestion which it would repay a wealthy philanthropist to put into practice many times over, in the health and happiness which would result to the children.

I am,

Dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

A CHILD LOVER.

## A HOSPITAL GHOST.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Do you think it possible that a patient's ghost would "walk the hospitals"? I should like to hear from any of your readers if they have ever heard of apparitions in a ward? I have a reason for making this inquiry.

Yours truly,

A NERVOUS NURSE.

## Comments and Replies.

*Competitor, Lenzie.*—Kindly note that the four coupons for the month in connection with the Prize Puzzle Competition must be sent in together at the end of the month, not weekly. Read the "Rules for Competition" on page xii.

*Disappointed.*—You could usefully employ your time while waiting for a vacancy in attending a course of instruction in sick room cookery, at one of the excellent schools of cookery now established. You would find the knowledge very useful to you in your future career.

## 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 xi.

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