

"PASSING RICH ON £40 A YEAR."

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

DEAR MADAM,—I notice in a recent issue that Mrs. Charles Hobhouse, speaking on the report of the Departmental Committee on the Midwives' Act, said that as regards towns there was no need of subvention of midwives because they could make a good income. It would have been interesting if we could have known what the lecturer considered a good income; but, assuming that the midwife charges 5s. a case, she would have to take one on every day (or night) of the year to earn an income of £90. (I have allowed 5 cases, a very small number, for bad debts.)

How one unfortunate woman is to do this, and follow up all the cases, washing mother and baby for ten days, and attending to their comfort, is left to the imagination. But it is easy to calculate that this means twenty washings a day—and more if there are twins, besides attendance at a confinement lasting on an average 4 to 6 hours, and entirely broken rest. I am aware that many people consider an income of £90 a year for a woman worker excessive, and think £40 ample for her, I should like all such to try to live on £90 a year, and then to take their opinion as to whether they would like to compel anyone to live on half that amount.

I am, Dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

JUSTICE WHILE YOU WAIT.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Re your comments on a letter headed "An Indefensible Proceeding," I am afraid the habit of increasing the severity of a sentence in a momentary fit of irritation is not confined to the judges of this generation—nor is it practised only with regard to female malefactors.

Doubtless you will remember the story of the 18th century judge who ordered some poor wretch to be whipped from Newgate to Charing Cross. "Thank you, old cock!" said the man; "you have done your worst." "And back again," continued the judge, as if he were concluding his sentence.

That unfortunate male paid dearly for his bit of bravado. But the anecdote of the 20th century judge, on which you comment, certainly caps the older story very aptly.

Yours faithfully,
M. MOLLETT.

Southampton.

Comments and Replies.

Miss K. M.—We hope to publish an article on the subject for which you ask information next week. We regret we are obliged to hold it over this week for want of space.

Nurse Margaret.—The temperature of baths is usually calculated as follows:—*Cold*, 33 degs. Fahr. to 65 degs. Fahr.; *Tepid*, 85 degs. Fahr. to 92 degs. Fahr.; *Warm*, from 92 degs. Fahr. to 98 degs. Fahr.; *Hot*, from 98 degs. Fahr. to 106 degs Fahr.

Nurse G.—The Central Midwives' Board, in its rules directs the use of an efficient antiseptic by the midwife, but refrains from recommending special antiseptics, leaving the selection to the judgment of the midwife.

To Enquirers Wishing to Join the Reserve.—Write to the Matron-in-Chief, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, War Office, Pall Mall, London, S.W.

Lately Certificated.—We should certainly advise you to consider the adoption of school nursing, as your special branch. It is one which is likely to develop more and more in the future, and the possibilities of good work in connection with it are almost unlimited. Apply to the Clerk of the London County Council, County Hall, Spring Gardens, S.W.

Permanent Nurse.—We have sometimes wondered if Relief Nurses could earn a living—that is, visiting nurses, who would relieve permanent nurses on chronic cases—by the half day. There must be in London a large number of households where such a Relief Nurse would be a convenience.

Notices.

In the list of new members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses in our last issue, No. 2760, printed Miss A. M. B. Karle, should be read Tharle.

The BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is the official organ of the following important Nursing societies:

The International Council of Nurses.

The National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

The Matrons' Council 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.

Advertisements and business communications should be addressed to the Manager, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 11, Adam Street, Strand, W.C.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

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.

OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

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