

God's Law is very plain. It is written, "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

I have seen so many ruined lives during my nineteen years of nursing, I feel it impossible to keep silence, but must speak for my fellow-women.

I remain,

Yours truly,

ELIZABETH MARY WINDALL.

St. John's Road, Penge.

[We also have carefully followed the evidence placed before the Royal Commission on the Divorce Laws, and have been struck by the fact that not one medical practitioner or trained nurse has been placed upon it, so that the Commission is therefore not qualified to deal with the most important part of the inquiry—how the Laws affect the Public Health. We grant the importance of the religious and moral side of the question—the Archbishop of York is an expert member of the Commission—but to exclude from its deliberations expert medical and nursing opinion and advice proves the ignorance and incapacity of a Government entirely composed of laymen to readjust the Laws of Divorce. The Commission, if its report is to be of the highest value, should command expert medical opinion on the physical ravages after marriage of the venereal group of diseases; and from trained nurses on the wastage of life, the deterioration of health, and domestic misery resulting from adultery of husbands and the physical pollution of wives, for which the present iniquitous injustice of our divorce laws are responsible. To discuss whether or no the deprivation of sight, mental deterioration, and general physical *rottenness* comes within the meaning of the word cruelty is an outrage to human intelligence. The infection of the lawful wife and her innocent offspring by husband and father with venereal virus is a crime, and should be dealt with by the law as such.—*Ed.*]

#### A QUESTION FOR THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Mr. Haldane's First-Aid Detachment Scheme, which was noticed a little time ago in your columns, is a well-thought-out scheme of education for the women of the nation. But I fear the efficiency of the nursing detachments is foredoomed to failure owing to the antiquated rules of the St. John Ambulance Association, which will not permit lectures to be given by any but medical men.

That "first-aid" lectures should be considered the prerogative of medical men I can understand, but judging from the accounts of such lectures which a friend of mine is attending it is quite evident that some of them cannot teach first-aid even with the St. John Ambulance book in front of them. This is a specimen of instruction of this particular lecturer. "Ah!—er—um. Stings! You all know what to do for stings. Frost-bite. Ah! frost-bite doesn't often happen in this country," and these two minor accidents are dismissed.

For severe bleeding from the wrist he tells his pupils to find the brachial artery and to keep up finger pressure upon it and the pulse until the

doctor comes. "You will always find plenty of people to relieve you," says this excellent teacher.

I know that many doctors are splendid lecturers, and have excellent results with their ambulance classes, but even they are not qualified to teach nursing. I maintain that as nursing is peculiarly women's work, and as there are many well-qualified nurses capable of teaching what they so well know and understand, that the nursing lectures in connection with this or any other scheme should be given by nurses who are practical experts. In fact I go further and think that both first-aid and nursing lectures should be given to women by nurses.

Unless this is done I fear all Mr. Haldane's good intentions will be rendered abortive.

Is not this a matter which could be taken up by the National Council of Trained Nurses and the affiliated Leagues?

And may I suggest to all Matrons who are acting upon the British Red Cross Committees to protest against this very narrow-minded and short-sighted policy.

These First-Aid Detachments are supposed to be effective in time of invasion; if the instruction is well given they will be even more useful in time of peace in their own homes and among their neighbours, so guarding the national welfare equally in peace as in war.

What is worth doing at all is worth doing well, and therefore I ask all nurses to use their influence to get this state of things altered so that the nursing lectures may be given by trained nurses who know their work both theoretically and practically.

I remain, dear Madam,  
Yours faithfully,

MARY BURR.

The Chestnuts, Ebford,  
Topsham, S. Devon.

#### Comments and Replies.

*Pupil Midwife.*—White asphyxia is a much more serious condition than blue asphyxia, which usually responds to artificial respiration, and alternate hot and cold baths. White asphyxia denotes heart failure, and is a very serious condition.

*International.*—We do not think you can do better than advertise your requirements in the *Bulletin Professionnel des Infirmières et Gardes-Malades*. It is published at 25-27, Rue de l'École de Médecine, Paris, 6.

*Miss Jessop, Birmingham.*—You will find that special training in mental nursing will be very valuable to you, and if you can afford to devote three years to it, and gain the certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association, by all means do so.

#### Notices.

##### OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)