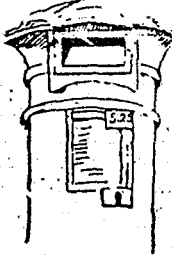


## Letters to the Editor.



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.

## GOD'S LAW.

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

DEAR MADAM,—We have to thank Miss Windall for her out-spoken letter. In my district—a very poor one in a black manufacturing town—I have had heart-rending experiences. Rottenness—the word you use—exactly expresses the condition of many of my patients. But these people have little relation to the Divorce Laws, because the majority of them are not married—men and women simply live together as man and wife, without any civil or religious ceremony at all. The animal savagery of these human beings is a national danger and disgrace. Would that something effective could be done to raise them! Their instincts are good when they are sober, but the majority do not understand what morality means. Children are never innocent, and many are diseased.

Yours sadly,

A QUEEN'S NURSE.

## RE FIRE GUARDS AND OVER-LAYING CHILDREN

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

DEAR MADAM,—Could you kindly favour me with the exact wording of the Act of Parliament relating to above through the columns of your journal? Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,

ROSE RUTTER.

Hayle, Cornwall.

[The Children's Act provides "Suffocation of Infants" (Clause 13): "When it is proved that the death of an infant under three years of age was caused by suffocation (not being suffocation caused by disease or the presence of any foreign body in the throat, or air-passages of the infant) whilst the infant was in bed with some other person over sixteen years of age, and that that other person was at the time of going to bed under the influence of drink, that other person shall be deemed to have neglected the infant in a manner likely to cause injury to its health within the meaning of this part of this Act."

"Exposing children to risk of burning." (Clause 15) provides: "If any person over the age of sixteen years, who has the custody, charge, or care of any child under the age of seven years, allows that child to be in any room containing an open fire-grate not sufficiently protected to guard against the risk of the child being burnt or scalded, without taking reasonable precautions against that risk, and by reason thereof the child is killed, or suffers serious injury, he shall, on summary conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding ten pounds."—Ed.]

## "THE CAT: ITS CARE AND MANAGEMENT."

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

DEAR MADAM,—I should like to thank your correspondent for the address of the publisher of the above, which I have now got, and which will be very useful to me.

Thanking you, dear madam, for your kindness,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

DISTRICT NURSE.

## THE CANING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

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

MADAM,—I think your readers will be interested in what Sir John Gorst has to say about the flogging of children. Here is his opinion:—

"Flogging terrifies the children; it makes them hate school and escape from it as much as they can; it exasperates those parents who do not beat their children themselves, and resent it being done by persons to whom they are compelled by law to entrust them."

A convert from corporal punishment is to be found in Dr. H. J. Spenser, head master of University College School. He was sceptical on his appointment, seven years ago, as to his success in managing on the traditional lines of the school—i.e., without corporal punishment—but he now asserts that he will never revert to the rod.

The corporal punishment of school children has been abolished in every country of importance except England. It does not exist in France, Holland, Italy, Japan, and many of the States of America, while in Egyptian schools the infliction of the rod or cane is absolutely prohibited.

Solomon was thought to have said the last word of wisdom on the subject, but the modern Socrates, Mr. Dooley, finally settled the matter in a recent dialogue: "Spare the rod an' spile th' child," said Mr. Hennessy. "Yes," said Mr. Dooley, "but don't spare th' rod an' ye spile th' rod, th' child, an' th' child's father."

Yours, etc.,

HUMANITARIAN.

## Comments and Replies.

L.O.S. Certificate, Birmingham.—You should apply without delay to have your name entered on the Roll of the Central Midwives' Board, as the new rule which enables the Board, at its discretion, to enrol duly qualified midwives who failed to claim the Board's certificate before April 1st, 1905, only holds good for six months. Write to the Secretary, Central Midwives' Board, Caxton House, Westminster, S.W.

Candidate, London.—Write to the Matron of the hospital, and ask for an interview.

## Notice.

## OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

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