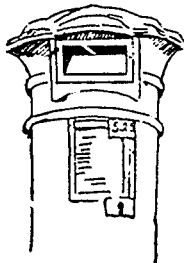


Letters to the Editor.



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.

OUR GUINEA PRIZE.

DEAR MADAM,—I have much pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of one guinea for picture puzzle prize.

Wishing your paper every success,

Yours faithfully,

BESSIE WIDDOP.

The Royal Infirmary, Sheffield.

MALE MIDWIVES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—It is an interesting fact that under the Midwives' Act, 1902, while women are prohibited from taking the name and title of midwife, and from habitually and for gain attending women in child-birth, otherwise than under the direction of a qualified medical practitioner, men can do both these things with impunity, and not only can, but do, as you recently showed.

It is clear that the Act needs amending to prohibit the practice of unqualified men, or they may enter into most unfair competition with certified midwives, to say nothing of the danger to which patients who employ them may be subjected. Moreover, although the male midwife is entirely unregulated, and there is no rule to compel him to send for medical assistance, yet, as he cannot give a death certificate, he will be practically forced to summon medical assistance in serious cases. This opens up further problems. Would a doctor summoned on the advice of an unregistered male midwife be covering unqualified practice, and so be liable to have his name removed from his professional register, if he went to the assistance of a lying-in woman at the request of a male midwife, and how can he enforce payment of his fee if the husband repudiates his claim?

Other interesting points opened up are: How should an amendment of the Act be worded? "No woman shall habitually and for gain attend women in child-birth . . . unless she be certified under this Act" cannot be changed to no person, as the Appeal Court of the House of Lords has decided that a woman is not a person, so that if amended in that way it would apply to men only, and confusion would be worse confounded. It will apparently have to read, "no man or woman" in every instance in which it is desired to include both, and lastly, one wonders what the judgment in the Edinburgh graduates' appeal to the House of Lords would have been had the Midwives' Act originally been worded so as to prevent unqualified persons from practice. It could hardly have been held that a woman was not a person had she been described

as such in an Act of Parliament.

Yours faithfully,

CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

DIRECT REPRESENTATION OF MIDWIVES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—May I thank you for making a stand for the direct representation of midwives on their own governing body? Why are we to be excluded from all authority, and be entirely managed by doctors, nurses, and the leisured classes? One result of this injustice is amply apparent—we cannot make a living wage. That fact proves that our profession is mismanaged by those who control it.

Yours truly,

A MANCHESTER MIDWIFE.

Comments and Replies.

Infirmiry Matron.—"A History of Nursing," by Miss Adelaide Nutting and Miss L. L. Dock, is just the work you require. The two volumes issued bring the history of nursing down to the year 1875. The third volume, which is now in preparation, will bring it up to date, and will appear at the end of this year. The work is published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, 24, Bedford Street, W.C. The majority of nurses know nothing of the history of their profession.

Notices.

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.

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.

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

OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

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