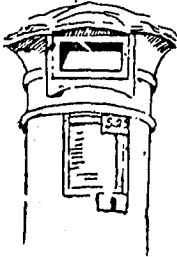


Letters to the Editor.



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.

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I do hope that at our annual meeting, on June 2nd, some resolution will be passed dissociating pure-minded and decent trained nurses from the fraudulent and immoral women—wearing our uniform for vicious purposes—on the streets and in Massage Homes! As a private nurse I am constantly made to feel the suspicion and contempt of the general public for "trained nurses." If the Government delay much longer to treat well-trained, honourable women justly, and with-hold from us legal status and a legal title, no self-respecting women will become trained nurses. The present condition of affairs, as exposed in the press, is a scandalous shame, and a gross injury to our work, and an abominable public danger. Would it be possible to place our case before the new King and Queen, as the Government refuses to do justice to so deserving a body of workers for the community as trained nurses are?

Yours truly,

MEMBER, STATE REGISTRATION SOCIETY.

[An Emergency Resolution will be placed on the agenda for discussion at the annual meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. We have this week heard of two ladies who intended to enter hospitals for training who have cancelled their agreements on the ground that they do not care to be classed with prostitutes.—Ed.]

MALE MIDWIVES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I hope that any Amendment to the Midwives' Act will contain a clear provision that it is illegal for anyone, man or woman, to practice midwifery except a registered medical practitioner or a certified midwife. Why should an ignorant man be allowed to deliver a woman when it is illegal for an ignorant woman to do so, or at all events a woman who has not proved her right to be on the Midwives' Roll. It was surely a great oversight in the Act that men should have unrestricted licence to practise, while women must henceforth give evidence of knowledge, and be brought under supervision and inspection. It may be the law, but it is not justice. I cannot but think that if the attention of the Lord President of the Council were drawn to this danger to lying-in women and injustice to midwives that a clause would be introduced into his Bill, as could easily be done, making men and women midwives equal

before the law. If a poor woman is to be attended by an ignorant person at all, let it be a woman and not a man. A woman may attend a sister woman from kindly feeling; an unqualified man surely does so only with the object of money-making, and it is about as unnatural and repulsive a piece of avarice as can well be imagined.

Faithfully yours,

AN INDIGNANT MIDWIFE.

THE HUMANE SLAUGHTERING OF ANIMALS.

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

MADAM,—It may not be generally known by the inhabitants of Great Britain that they are the only civilised people in the world without a comprehensive abattoir system, and that in London and the provinces, for the most part, the killing of animals designed for meat is still carried on exclusively under antiquated methods, though the advantages of the public over the private slaughter-house have been repeatedly demonstrated by recognised authorities, official and otherwise.

It is many years since the late Professor Newman publicly protested against the cruelties practised on animals in private slaughter-houses, and the Rev. Canon Barnett, Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson, Mr. H. F. Lester, of the Humanitarian League, and other social reformers, called attention in the press to the dangers to health and morals caused by the presence of butchers' shambles in the crowded centres of the Metropolis and other large towns.

The following important recommendation occurs in the Report of the Admiralty Commission appointed by the last Conservative Government to consider the humane slaughtering of animals: "That, in the interests, not only of humanity, but of sanitation, order, and ultimate economy, it is highly desirable that, where circumstances permit, private slaughter-houses should be replaced by public abattoirs, and that no killing should be permitted except in the latter, under official supervision."

When we compare the methods of the Danish people, for instance, as illustrated by their system of slaughtering and veterinary inspection at Copenhagen, with our old, "inhuman, and insanitary methods" of private butchery, we may cease to be surprised at the rapid spread of cancer and tuberculosis in our midst. The example of Denmark should be a powerful lesson in humanity and progress to the people of the British Isles.

HUMANITARIAN.

Comments and Replies.

A Foreign Nurse.—Apply to Mrs. Wilson, Swedish Clinique and Massage School, 16, York Place, Baker Street, W. It is necessary to be extremely circumspect in applying for training in this branch, and we have pleasure in recommending the above institution.

OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

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