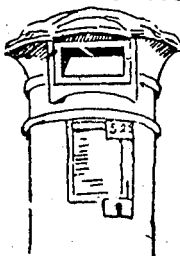


## Letters to the Editor.



*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.*

### REGISTRATION WILL GO FAR.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Allow me to congratulate you on the able and open way in which you have taken up the subject of West End nursing (?) institutions. For a long time past I have been in the habit of warning young nurses against these homes, as you never know what you might get let in for, having had experience of London institutions, and the class of nurses employed by many. Registration will go far to meet the evil, but I fear will not clear it out entirely. Only a system of registration of the homes, with adequate inspection, and a bureau that would give information about the places to nurses applying for posts, would combat the evil successfully.

A. M. A.

Exmouth.

### THE REMEDY IS—STATE REGISTRATION.

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

MADAM,—May I claim the courtesy of your columns to defend a class of institutions which at the present moment is being subjected to unjustifiable assault.

In their search for sensational copy, certain papers have recently engaged in attacks on "Nursing Homes," and furnished their credulous public with highly spiced and lurid details of vicious and illegal practices committed within the walls of these so-called Nursing Homes. Of course, it is impossible to deny that nefarious practices are committed at certain of these establishments, and that their proprietors continue to hide their guilt from the eyes of the police by labelling their establishments "Nursing Homes," "Rest Homes," and so forth. All this is common knowledge, and, although the scandal exists and may even have assumed the proportion which has been alleged, the police authorities may be trusted to do their duty and exercise due vigilance in the interests of public morality. If it should be necessary to quicken their watchfulness, perhaps the present campaign may be justified, but as one intimately associated with the conduct of a Nursing Home, I wish to protest as vigorously as I can against the great harm that is being done by this indiscriminate denunciation of Nursing Homes.

To many people, especially those of restricted means, a Nursing Home often supplies a real want and is oftentimes a veritable godsend, as often the only alternative is the general ward of a public hospital with its necessarily rigid discipline and lack of privacy, from which so many people shrink. That in some Nursing Homes not justly entitled

to that honourable distinction abuses exist, is no excuse at all for wild and whirling attacks on institutions which fulfil an excellent purpose and are the means of alleviating a great amount of suffering without the excessive expenditure and inconvenience involved in home nursing.

For such abuses as do exist the remedy is a very simple one, and has been agitated for by all the proprietors of legitimately conducted Nursing Homes for many years past; that remedy is—State Registration. Were this compulsory, such evils as are now being dragged before the public eye could not exist. Establishments which are rightly conducted have even now no need to shun the light of day, but with universal Registration there would be no possibility of the title "Nursing Home" ever being degraded in such a way as at the present time. Nor would there be the necessity for that lurid journalism which massacres the innocent as well as the guilty by frightening the timid and ignorant public.

Thanking you for your courtesy in inserting this letter.

Yours obediently,

Z.

### DIRECT REPRESENTATION ON THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I read with much pleasure the admirable paper by Mrs. Lawson on the Direct Representation of Midwives on the Central Midwives' Board in your last issue, and thank Mrs. Lawson for it. The position which she takes up is quite impregnable—representation of the class governed on the governing body. It is a fundamental principle of good government all the world over. It is further imperative that such representatives should be sent to their governing body by the electorate of certified midwives. If this fact is conceded I think the point insisted upon by Mrs. Lawson that the midwife should at the present time be engaged in active practice a minor one. Not that I minimise the importance of representation of the interests of practising midwives, but that I do not think the electorate should be restricted in its choice of a representative. I should like to see a midwife elected who has not simply gained her certificate, but has practised after obtaining it, and this I think the electorate might be trusted to ensure, but the important point to my mind is that she is sent to the Board by the certified midwives, and sits there at their will. She will, therefore, have to know and further the wishes of her constituents just as much as the ordinary member of Parliament.

Yours faithfully,

CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

## Notices.

### OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

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