

opinion that where the housing conditions are such that boys and girls are inevitably brought into contact, "unseemly in its closeness," the greater responsibility for the immorality resulting belongs to the landlords. The chief point emphasised in the story was that the stigma of birth in a work-house ward clings to a child, and places him or her—especially her—at a disadvantage through life. The innocent child is saved from this if born in a maternity home.—ED.]

THE ELIZABETH FRY LEAGUE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—My deep interest in the—to my mind—greatest cause of the day, I mean the sacred cause of the enfranchisement of women, has so often led my thoughts to Holloway and other prisons where many brave women have undergone, not only unjust imprisonment, but the cruelty of forcible feeding by unskilled and untrained people, that a realisation has come to me of the necessity of a higher standard of training for prison officials. I read your article on the proposed "Elizabeth Fry League" therefore, with great interest. In speaking of "the great mother spirit in her"—Elizabeth Fry—you touch the whole psychological spot of all reform. Is it not the mother spirit in women—the mothers of the race—that inspires them with the desire to improve social conditions and uplift the human race? Is it not this that makes "our hearts burn within us" when we see so much that is wrong in the world, and long to put it right? Again you touch the spot exactly when you say "that the essence of Elizabeth Fry's teaching was healing of body and spirit," and you rightly put body first, for the healing of the soul and spirit must come after, or together with the healing of the body.

Elizabeth Fry, who saw the necessity of this, was in advance of her day. It seems to me that we are only just beginning to realise that this is the fundamental principle underlying all true reform.

When we get State Registration nursing will be a profession recognised by the State. Being therefore fortified by legal status, could we not approach the Home Secretary to aid us in the scheme you admirably suggest of co-ordinating prison work with nursing? I feel sure the prospective Elizabeth Fry League will interest all Devonshire Square nurses. One of them—a friend of mine—picked up the Journal containing your article, and read it with great delight.

Good luck to your scheme!
Yours truly,

BEATRICE KENT.

Comments and Replies.

Miss Edmunds.—The private nurse of to-day needs many qualifications besides medical and surgical training in the wards of a general hospital. One of the most useful specialities to take up is mental nursing, as nurses with general and mental training are much in demand.

Pupil Midwife.—The points to remember in dressing a baby's cord are that the ligature must be secure, it must not be dragged upon, and it must be kept aseptic. Scissors and ligatures must be surgically clean, and the object of any dressing applied should be to keep the cord dry. There is rarely any trouble with a cord so treated.

Notices.

RULES FOR PRIZE COMPETITIONS. PRACTICAL POINTS.

We offer a Prize of 5s. for the best Practical Point paragraph of from 100 to 200 words, to reach the Editor, at 20 Upper Wimpole Street, London, W., not later than Saturday, January 15th inst.

Paragraphs sent in, other than that to which the prize is awarded, and thought worthy of publication, will be paid for at the usual rates.

THE NEATEST NURSE PHOTOGRAPH.

We offer 10s. for a photograph of a nurse in uniform, neatness to be the test of excellence, with permission to publish the same. The photographs must reach the Editor not later than Saturday, January 22nd. Photographs sent which do not win the prize will be returned.

AN ARTICLE ON A PRACTICAL NURSING SUBJECT.

We offer £1 10s. for an article dealing with Practical Nursing of from 1,400 to 1,500 words, to reach the Editor not later than Saturday, January 29th. By arrangement with competitors articles other than that to which the Prize is awarded may be selected for publication.

Each competitor must enclose her name and address in full.

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.

Exclusive news being copyright, papers quoting from our columns must give the name of this journal as the source of their information.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES

Those desirous of helping on the important movement of this Society to obtain an Act providing for the Legal Registration of Trained Nurses can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

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