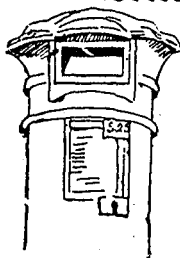


Letters to the Editor.



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.

HOW ARE THE MIGHTY FALLEN!

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

DEAR MADAM,—The report of the General Court of Governors at St. Bartholomew's in your last issue will be read by "Bart's" nurses all over the world with deep regret, and the fact that the "Governors do not govern" will come as a rude shock to most of us. In the old days we nurses had absolute faith in the good intentions of the Governors, and the sooner the present Election Committee is disbanded the better for the reputation of the Hospital. In the meantime I, for one, should not care to recommend women to train in a school where a high standard of efficiency and loyal devotion to duty appear to be at a discount. Already I know some first class probationers trained in special Scottish hospitals, who do not now intend to complete their adult training at "Bart's," and have recently arranged to go elsewhere.

"Good name in man or woman, dear my lord,
Is the immediate jewel of their souls."

Yours, etc.,

JULIA HURLSTON,
Cert. St. Bart's.

Gullane, N.B.

LETTERS TO MY SON.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have read with the greatest interest "Letters to my Son" reviewed in your last issue, and I should like to thank you for directing the attention of your readers to so beautiful a book. We midwives are so concerned—quite rightly—with practical duties, we are so tired by the time we have discharged them faithfully, that we are apt to miss the pleasure of entering into the joy of the mother in the birth of her child. We make the mother comfortable, give her gruel or other nourishment, put the child to the breast, darken the room, give instructions for the well-being of both, and retire with a satisfactory sense of duty well fulfilled, perhaps to rest, more likely to go on to another case and go through the same round once again. But a few moments spent in sharing the joy of the mother over the fulfilment of the hope of the past nine months—a joy so keen that she "remembers no more the anguish"—is surely time well spent. Of course there are mothers and mothers, all children are not wanted, there are mothers without the maternal instinct, as there are spinsters to whom children turn as naturally as flowers to the light. But my experience leads me to believe that most mothers care for their children at first, even if the feeling does not sur-

vive the period of dependence; in the poorest homes, where an additional child means additional anxiety as to ways and means, the mothers will tell you, as they fondle the downy heads, that the babies "bring the love with them." That being so, surely it is our duty to cherish the flame, and sympathy with the mother over the birth of her baby is the surest way to her confidence in the future. Let me advise all midwives who have not done so already to read "Letters to my Son"; nothing is better calculated to help them to enter into a mother's feelings.

Yours faithfully,

CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

Comments and Replies.

Private Nurse.—The colour of healthy urine may be affected by drugs such as rhubarb and santoin, which often cause a reddish tinge. The effect of carbolic acid, when absorbed, in turning the urine dark green, is well known. It is obviously important that nurses whose duty it is to observe and report symptoms should be aware of the effect of drugs on the excretions, otherwise they may fail to give the necessary information to the medical attendant, and on the other hand may be unnecessarily alarmed.

Nurse Evans, Hammersmith.—The office of the Children's Country Holiday Fund is at 18, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C. The children sent into the country through the agency of the Fund must be over 5 and under 14 years of age. Parents are expected to pay according to their means.

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.

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.

The BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING may be obtained at 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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