

were to have—there was nothing but bread and lard—less than half a loaf of this and about  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. of lard. I remonstrated, but the woman assured me that “he buys it himself every morning, and I has to sind it. He would kick me if I didn’t, miss.” (This said in a weary, resigned tone.) This is by no means an isolated case. In my little sphere of work I know of many. It is this sort of thing that should convert those “delicately insane” antis who talk of “Queens of the home” to the necessity of having laws to protect their less fortunate sisters from brutality of this description.

Truly, as your admirable journal once stated, the opportunities of doing good by the educated nurse as a social worker are limited only by her own capacity.

If there are any nurses engaged in social work who are not yet assured of the need of Women’s Suffrage, I sincerely trust that they may be given “furiously to think,” after reading the article referred to in your last week’s issue. I make a point of sending your journal to a nurse “Anti” every week, as I consider it an educating influence on the need of a higher status for women, the professional nurse included. I take this opportunity to thank you for the very helpful and encouraging advice I have derived from THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.—I am, dear Madam, yours faithfully,  
A HEALTH MISSIONER.

#### THE NEW MIDWIVES’ BILL.

To the Editor of the “British Journal of Nursing.”

DEAR EDITOR,—Being a constant reader of your paper, let me say that I agree with your remarks in this week’s issue, in answer to the extract taken from the *Midwives’ Record*, and would like to supplement them by saying that all the midwives in the country are not passive.

There is no newspaper to blazen forth the fact, but there is a strong fighting force in the country under the banner of the National Association of Midwives.

When Parliament reassembles there are 30 members pledged to oppose the Midwives’ Bill when it appears in the House of Commons.

The secretaries of our branches have had personal interviews with their respective members.

The secretary of the Manchester Branch is responsible for obtaining the pledges to oppose the Bill from seven members in one day.

Knowing your sympathy for womanhood, I thought you would like to know the work that is being done.

Please let me draw your attention to an error that has crept into your columns regarding the Union formed by the midwives of Sheffield and district. The fact is they have formed a branch of the N.A.M., and not a small local union. The women of Sheffield believe, as do we, that small local unions are absolutely no use to midwives at this critical time in the history of our profession.

It is only by united effort and presenting a solid front that we can hope to obtain any measure of justice.

Yours faithfully,

MARGARET LAWSON,

President, National Association of Midwives.

## Comments and Replies.

Miss T. S., London.—The hospital in which you are training is not alone in failing to provide systematic teaching for nurses in *Materia Medica*. It is a most serious and dangerous omission from the nursing curriculum. We should advise you to obtain the Text-Book on *Materia Medica* for Nurses, compiled by Miss L. L. Dock. It contains a Table of Poisons, their antidotes and antagonists, and is published by G. P. Putnam’s Sons, 24, Bedford Street, Strand, London, W.C.

Sister Marion, Liverpool.—See reply to above—Your suggestion to give “grinds” to your probationers we consider most wise. No doubt, when we have a Central Nursing Council, *Materia Medica* will be a compulsory subject for nurses. According to Gould, the broad meaning of medicine (*Medicina*) is “the science and art of healing and curing the sick,” and the word drug means “a substance, simple or compound, natural or prepared, single or mixed, with other substances, used as a medicine; and “*Materia Medica*” covers the entire list of such substances, with their whole history. Every nurse should possess and study Dock’s text-book on this subject.

District Nurse, A.F.C.—Dr. G. H. Mapleton, in the *British Medical Journal* advises that all crevices in rooms be brushed with a feather dipped in strong solution of corrosive sublimate in rectified spirit for the destruction of bugs. He considers it infallible.—Ed.

## 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.

#### 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.

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

Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole 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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