

The food was insufficient and very poor in quality, and many nurses supplied themselves with food, they were so hungry. The bathing arrangements were abominable, the one bath on each floor being used by nurses, maids, and laundry maids, so that those of us who were particular had to disinfect it with lysol before venturing to take a bath.

The truth is, that with a staff so generally uneducated it seems a hopeless thing to maintain a high standard of scientific nursing, such as is so necessary in an infectious hospital. The first reform required is, of course, a standard of nursing and proper expert inspection; the appointment of a Matron whose professional knowledge and power of administration has been tested; a test of general education for probationers; a curriculum of training, including sterilisation, which the Sisters should be capable of teaching; participation in the practical nursing by the Sisters—less time devoted by them to fancy work, flowers, and gossip—and a trained nurse always on duty in the Sisters' absence; daily supervision by the Matron of the nursing and domestic arrangements; and more thorough medical attention to the patients.

The Hull City Council is unfortunately mostly composed of business men who do not know what skilled nursing is; it is not their fault. Why are not all public hospitals inspected by medical and nursing experts? It is only fair on the poor patients that they should be kept up to the mark. I have no personal grievance beyond regret for time which I wasted at the Hull Sanatorium.

Yours truly

A TRAINED NURSE.

#### MIDWIVES ON THE MIDWIVES' BOARD.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I notice that in a recent interview a representative of the Midwives' Institute stated that there was not sufficient representation of the midwives provided for on the Central Midwives' Board, in the Bill now before Parliament, and that the Midwives' Institute claimed another representative. It is important, however, to differentiate between the Midwives' Institute and the certified midwives. The institute, through societies lately affiliated, may possibly claim to represent 2,000 midwives, while the certified midwives on the roll number some 30,000. Presumably, therefore, the odd 28,000 do not desire to become members of the Midwives' Institute, but that is no reason why they should be unrepresented on their governing body, or be forced into becoming members of the institute before they can obtain representation. It must be remembered that the Midwives' Institute never claimed that there should be one midwife on the Board, as constituted by the original Bill, and that members of that body publicly declared that if the institute only had one representative allotted to them under the 1910 Bill that they desired that representative to be a medical man. They argued that there were too many medical men on the Board already, and so they must have another to look after the interests of the midwives, on the ground, I suppose, that "like cures like," and that "a hair of the dog" is the best remedy for the prepon-

derating medical representation. Possibly this homœopathic doctrine may commend itself to some; it does not to me, or to the large number of certified midwives who see in direct representation the only just and satisfactory method. If the Midwives' Institute really considers midwives are insufficiently represented on their governing body, why do they not claim that the second representative allotted to them shall be a midwife and not a person, or why do they not make a bid for the confidence of the midwives throughout the country by demanding direct representation?—I am, dear Madam, yours faithfully,

CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

#### HOW MEN MANAGE WOMEN.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The sentence of hard labour passed on an East-End Guardian for his insulting behaviour towards a nurse, referred to in your journal, was well deserved. But what of the tone and management of an institution where such lack of discipline was possible? I know the institution. It is a very great pity there are no lady Guardians on the Board. Wherever women are associated with men in the management of public institutions, the moral tone is at once raised. A few women on the Local Government Board itself would set a useful example.

Yours truly,

A POOR LAW NURSE.

### Comments and Replies.

*Country Midwife.*—Write direct to the Member of Parliament for the constituency in which you live. Shall be pleased to receive the paper on the subject you mention.

*Mother in the Midlands.*—The prisons are under the Home Office. We look forward to the time when all prison Matrons will be trained general and psychological nurses. Very little can be done without the State authority. We have no educational standard for probationers at present.

#### NOTICES.

We regret that owing to a printer's error the definition of the word paralysis in Miss Sutton's article, published last week, the words "I relax" should have appeared "Trelax." No doubt readers realised the meaning of the misprint.

#### 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.

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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