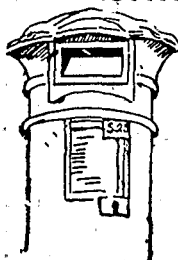


Letters to the Editor.



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.

A DESERVING CASE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I wonder if your readers can help me in the following most deserving case:—

Louisa Jackson, has lived eighteen years at 18, Bolsover Street, where the house is now being pulled down. She is single and aged 46. She was in domestic service until eighteen years ago, when her health failed. Now, totally crippled in all her joints, she is quite unable to support herself in any way whatever, although not bedridden.

Her case is strongly recommended by: Mrs. George Harley, Gorelands, Chalfont St. Giles; Dr. Ellicott Brown, 5, Cavendish Mansions, Langham Street; Rev. Grosse Hodge, Trinity Church, Marylebone; Dr. Francis Goodbody, 6, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square; Canon Blagden, 15, Crawley Gardens, S.W.

Louisa Jackson's sister is now in service and can afford to pay a small sum per week towards her maintenance, but if she leaves her situation to attend on the invalid her own income will cease, and they will both be in a worse plight than ever.

Can any of your readers suggest a home for this case, temporary or otherwise, or help me to get her into the Home for Incurables at Putney?

Yours faithfully,

E. ALEC-TWEEDIE.

30, York Terrace, Harley Street, W.

[We hope some of our readers may be able to help Mrs. Alec Tweedie in reference to this very deserving invalid.—ED.]

THE "APOTHEOSIS OF THE EXPLOITER."

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

DEAR MADAM,—As usual, we have to turn to your paper to know the truth. May I point out how the Penalising of Private Nurses' Bill, as we call this fresh bit of L.C.C. legislation for women, without their consent, affects the institution in which I lodge? Although it is a home for private nurses, and not a nursing institution which admits patients, doctors often ring up the trained matron and ask her if she can recommend a good nurse. In the past a number of cases have thus been given to those lodging in the home. And why not? To doctors living near—busy men, who often require a nurse at night—it has been a great convenience. But this new law prohibits such a course. The Matron must take out a licence, have her nurses' home inspected, and be subject to all sorts of interference by lay inspectors if she gives us, free of charge, one case; and yet a Home Hospital close at hand may send out semi-trained probationers as

"trained nurses" at very high fees, so long as the proprietor pays them an infinitesimal salary. If this is not the "apotheosis of the exploiter" I want to know what is?

Yours truly,

Co-op. NURSE.

THE LOWERING OF NURSING STANDARDS IN SUTHERLAND.

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

MADAM,—I am glad to see that you are giving publicity to a most retrograde, unjust, and discreditable move in the Highlands of Scotland—the doing away with the post of Superintendent of the Sutherlandshire Nursing Association.

During my sojourns in that county I have had opportunities of judging of the good as well as weak points of the Association. As you state in an editorial remark, the staff is not fully trained, so I shall call the "nurses" midwives, which they really are—not "nurses," which they really are not.

The responsibility of a midwife or maternity nurse in a county like Sutherland is great. Her patient may be five miles from the nearest neighbour, and perhaps 15 from the nearest doctor. Such a case is not imaginary, it has come under my own observation.

In cases of general illness, although possessing no recognised qualification to act as nurses in such, these midwives often do very valuable work; they are most anxious to follow intelligently the doctor's treatment, and with a fully trained Superintendent to whom they can refer for information on nursing they improve greatly, and, as I have said, do good work.

There is no part of Scotland where a fully trained nurse is more required as Superintendent than in Sutherland, and I protest most strongly against the movement which has taken place.

It is very good of you to give space to this far-off Highland subject, but I can assure you it is well bestowed. Can you, Madam, suggest any means which might be employed to save a useful institution from its "friends"—the Central Management Committee—or could someone who knows the conditions of nursing and the needs of the poor of Sutherland in relation to nursing come forward and give an opinion?

I am, etc.,

ONE WHO DEMANDS FAIR PLAY.

Comments and Replies.

Miss Ellis, Birmingham.—The training school at the General Hospital, Birmingham, has a first-class reputation both as affording excellent practical experience and for the training which is given there.

Midwifery Candidate, London.—A list of the training schools in midwifery, recognised by the Central Midwives' Board, is published by the Board, the offices of which are at Caxton House, Westminster, S.W.

OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

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