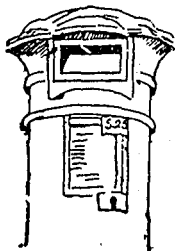


## Letters to the Editor.



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.

### OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—With much pleasure I received your cheque, value 5s., this morning, and beg to acknowledge the same with very many thanks.

Yours faithfully,

ELIZABETH MARTIN.

The Hospital for Incurables,  
Near Bury, Lancs.

### PERFORMING ANIMALS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—May I earnestly request your readers not to patronise by their presence, support by their money, or allow their children to frequent, shows of "Performing Animals," which are a blot upon our civilisation?

Were the good-natured English public aware of the tortures that are inflicted upon poor animals in the process called "training" they would cry shame upon such sights instead of flocking to them. But the spectators are cheated into the belief that "all is done by kindness," and are in ignorance of the suffering involved.

Of late, benevolent and painstaking persons have laboured to throw light on the dark places where cowardly ruffians torment hapless animals in secret. Among the foremost to expose the vile methods is the popular writer, Mr. Bensusan, who after careful personal investigation, wrote as follows to the *English Illustrated Magazine*:

"For the most part foreigners are the purchasers of animal troupes, and the majority of them are vile, vicious, and cruel. They come before the footlights smiling and bowing, and now and again caressing their victims, but woe to the one that makes a mistake! Stripes and starvation are the mildest form of punishment, and mutilation is not unheard of.

"It must not be imagined that the owners ill-treat their victims on the stage. Managers would not permit such a thing. It is in the wretched, ill-ventilated, underground cellars, where the greatest number of them are kept, that most of the weekly rehearsals go on, with an accompaniment of suffering that would shock a slaughterman.

"Many an animal goes through its performance with such an obvious terror of doing the wrong thing, that it is really surprising how an intelligent audience can avoid seeing the true state of things."

Mr. Bensusan proceeds to detail some horrible facts as to the use of collars, lined with jagged

nails or iron spikes. By jerking these instruments of torture, reluctant dogs are "taught to dance" while they howl with pain. Besides the question of cruelty to animals, another and very serious point must be considered by those who have the good of our race at heart. Not only is it an unwholesome, morbid taste which can find amusement in the antics of these poor creatures, forced to go through what must be to them a wearisome, unmeaning, and unnatural set of evolutions, twice daily or oftener, but to "dress up" animals as caricatures of ourselves is an insult to the human form divine, which ought never to be made the subject of low buffoonery. Vulgar, senseless, degrading, demoralising—such exhibitions hold up to ridicule that which young and old alike ought to hold sacred—the Image of the Creator, mirrored in every man and woman.

I am, Madam,

Yours truly,

EDITH CARRINGTON.

18, Miles Road,  
Clifton, Bristol.

## Comments and Replies.

*C. F. T., Birmingham.*—It is a great risk to emigrate, unless you are prepared to be a domestic servant, to any of the British Colonies. Those who offer work as lady-helps really require general servants. As a trained nurse, unless you have a certificate of three years' training, you will not be qualified to register in New Zealand, in Australia (voluntary registration), or in Cape Colony, Natal, or Transvaal. Registration and nursing standards are being more and more enforced in the United States, and nurses trained in Great Britain are finding themselves increasingly discriminated against. Canada is at present a free field, but work can only be obtained in the rougher branches of nursing; all the higher posts can be quite adequately filled by Canadian trained nurses, which is only fair, and as the Canadians are now rousing themselves in earnest to obtain legal status (State Registration), nursing in Canada will soon rank as a profession into which unregistered nurses from this country will not be admitted. When every civilised country included in the British Dominions has legislated to protect the sick and nursing standards Parliament at home will be compelled to safeguard the interests of the community. Until that time vested interests, social influence, monopoly of trained nursing by anti-registration hospital governors, and the general exploitation of trained nurses will continue. Nursing economics in this country are in a parlous state.

## Notices.

### OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR APRIL.

April 29th.—How are burns usually classified?

Rules for competing for this competition will be found on page xii.

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