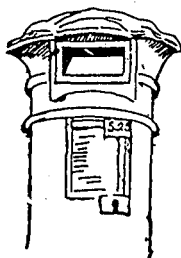


## Letters to the Editor.



*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 FEW QUESTIONS FOR MR. LLOYD GEORGE

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

DEAR MADAM,—A question which is very considerably exercising the minds of midwives is what will happen to them if, under Mr. Lloyd George's National Insurance Bill, it is the doctors and nurses who are to be paid for attendance on maternity cases. It is to be hoped that when the Bill is next under discussion in the House of Commons the Chancellor of the Exchequer will make a plain statement as to the position of midwives if the Bill becomes law. I presume that in drawing up this Bill Mr. Lloyd George is aware that certified midwives are not trained nurses?

A correspondent of the *British Medical Journal* asks, with some reason: "Is the 30s. grant for motherhood anything special? If the woman did not get the 30s. 'special benefit' would she not be entitled to her 7s. 6d. per week for 'invalidity,' and this in four weeks would amount to 30s. Why not call a spade a spade, and do not say you are giving a woman a 'special benefit' when she is only getting what she is entitled to. What fee is the doctor to get, and what the nurse? Is the woman to divide the 30s. between the doctor and the nurse, or is it for the woman herself? If the latter, are the doctors to attend midwifery cases free, and as part of their other duties—more philanthropy?"

The latter part of the question is answered by the Act, which provides that the maternity benefit "shall be administered by the approved society of which she is a member, or if she is not a member of any society by the Local Health Committee." The other point raised is open to question. Few, if any, women of the working class lie up for more than a fortnight at the time of their confinement, and I doubt if they would obtain "invalidity" allowance for a month if special provision were not made for the maternity benefit.

Again, as nurses in hospitals come under the provisions of the act, and will thus have to pay three-pence a week to insure themselves, they want to know what benefit they will receive. At present they have free medical and nursing treatment when ill. Will their employers (the Hospital Committees) feel inclined to provide these in future if they have to contribute weekly to the insurance scheme? If not, the nurses will be far worse off than at present.

And medical students want to know where they come in. How are they to get experience if every woman is to be entitled to medical treatment? The answer to that is that it is high time the medical schools stopped covering unqualified practice, and that the out-patient maternity work of students

was directly supervised by registered medical practitioners.

I could find many more questions for Mr. Lloyd George, but must not trespass further on your space.

Yours faithfully,

CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

### ARMY NURSES' MEMORIAL TO MISS NIGHTINGALE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I think it may be of interest to your readers to know that the dedication and unveiling of the memorial window to the late Miss Florence Nightingale, erected by members, past and present, of the Army Nursing Service, and the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, will take place on Wednesday, the 24th inst., in the Chapel attached to the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Grosvenor Road, S.W.

The dedication by the Right Rev. Bishop Taylor Smith, C.V.O., D.D., Chaplain-General to H.M. Forces. The unveiling by Field Marshal the Right Hon. Earl Roberts, V.C., K.G.

I am, yours faithfully,

E. M. MCCARTHY,

For Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S.

War Office, Whitehall, S.W.

### NURSES AND THE GREAT SUFFRAGE PROCESSION ON JUNE 17th.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I should feel very grateful if you would allow me a little space in our Journal for the following announcement: I have been appointed organiser of the Nurses' Section of the Women's Freedom League Procession of the 17th of June, being a division of the great Suffrage Procession which is to take place on that day. I should be glad, therefore, to have the names as soon as possible of as many nurses as are willing and able to walk in the procession.

The question of uniform is one of opinion and individual taste, but we earnestly hope that no nurse will entertain the false notion that to wear it on such an occasion is to dishonour it! Surely, the exact opposite would be the right view to take. I always feel that I do honour to my uniform when I wear it in the great and good cause of the Freedom of Women.

We are very anxious to have a good contingent of nurses—and who is to tell we are nurses if we are in mufti?

Hoping for a good response to my letter,

I remain, yours truly,

BEATRICE KENT.

10, Colosseum Terrace,  
Regent's Park, N.W.

## Notices.

### OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR MAY.

The remaining questions for May are as follows:

*May 20th.*—How would you teach probationers to fill and apply (1) hot water bags; (2) ice bags?

*May 27th.*—How would you prepare (1) the room; (2) the bed; (3) the patient in a confinement case?

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