

midwife is, by reason of her sex, excluded from any participation in making the laws that concern her, and the only hope of obtaining a small modicum of justice is by appealing to the public through the Press.

Yours faithfully,

AMY HUGHES,  
*President, Midwives' Institute.*

JANE WILSON,  
*Vice-President, Midwives' Institute.*

ROSALIND PAGET,  
*Hon. Treasurer, Midwives' Institute.*

R. P. FYNES-CLINTON,  
*Secretary, Midwives' Institute.*

The Incorporated Midwives' Institute,  
12, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

#### THE MORAL STANDARD FOR MIDWIVES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I read with amazement the decision of the Central Midwives' Board in relation to the candidate, who said she had handed in her examination paper—which could not be found—and who, when granted an opportunity of again going in for the examination, was found with a text book on midwifery on her lap, cribbing of course.

The decision that this woman, whose name for some reason is kept secret, should again be admitted to examination next year, is outrageous after what Sir George Fordham said at the meeting of the Board, "It is a case of serious fraud," and I do not wonder he questioned the advisability of re-admitting the candidate to examination. The truth is the candidate is one of many uneducated women very indifferently trained by means of a county education grant, and the institution which trained her is determined, if possible, to have her foisted upon the unsuspecting poor. This it is the duty of the Midwives' Board to prevent. As the Chairman said, "Papers do not get lost," so we must presume that although he suspects a woman of a fraudulent untruth, and one who moreover has been proved guilty of fraudulent conduct at an examination, he considers this woman, devoid of moral character, is good enough to be placed on the Midwives' Roll. It is most unjust, and I hope the Midwives' Associations will take some action in the matter before so unreliable a person is permitted to care for poor trusting lying-in women in their hour of need. There is plenty of penalising of poor old "bona-fides" who err from ignorance, but it is the duty of the Midwives' Board to prevent criminals supported by social influence being recognised as certified midwives. Any standard seems good enough for women's work when controlled by men. How would the General Medical Council deal with a medical student guilty in like measure? We know well he would be rigorously excluded from the medical profession. It is the duty of medical men, who control the Midwives' Board, to enforce the same moral standard for midwives. We cannot help ourselves, as we are excluded from direct representation on our own disciplinary Board.

Yours truly,

CERTIFIED MIDWIFE AND CERTIFICATED NURSE.

#### THE STATUS OF MENTAL NURSING.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I wonder why your correspondent considers an unsuccessful scullery-maid likely to make a good nurse. A successful one possibly might, if she had sufficient general education, in addition to other qualities. But nursing is not in my opinion a profession which lends itself to the useful employment of failures of any other calling, as it makes most exacting demands upon those who adopt it if they are to do so with credit to themselves, and to the profession which they enter. We want the best, either of raw material or of those who have already tried their mettle in other professions, but the failures had better betake themselves elsewhere; they are not wanted in our hospital wards.

I am, Dear Madam,

Your faithfully,

MATRON.

#### AN UNKNOWN FRIEND.

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

Miss Hutchinson thanks the friend who so kindly sends her each week the BRITISH NURSING JOURNAL. Her address is no longer Dera Ismail Khan, but is now Y.W.C.A., Lahore, Punjab, India.

### Comments and Replies.

"*Claire Desmond.*"—We know of no hospital in London where nurses are taken for a post graduate course in surgical (or medical) work without paying for it. You might write to the Matrons of some of the special hospitals, such as the Chelsea Hospital for Women, Fulham Road, S.W., the Samaritan Free Hospital, Marylebone Road, N.W., the New Hospital for Women, Euston Road, and the Hospital for Women, Soho Square, W., in all of which the surgical work is good, and make inquiries. "Practical Nursing," by Isla Stewart and H. E. Cuff, published by Blackwood and Sons, and "Food and Dietaries," by Sir R. W. Burnet, published by Charles Griffin and Co., Ltd., Exeter Street, Strand, are both excellent manuals.

### Notices.

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR JUNE.

*June 8th.*—What care should bed-pans and like utensils, also spittoons, receive in order to prevent odour, and insure perfect cleanliness?

*June 10th.*—Mention some forms of respiration that indicate serious conditions, and describe them.

*June 17th.*—Describe a curriculum which would qualify a Sister to become an efficient teacher of practical nursing in the wards.

*June 24th.*—What are the usual causes of hypodermic abscesses?

#### THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

All information concerning the Society and its work can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)