

ARE DOCTORS NURSING AGENTS?

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

DEAR MADAM,—The Superintendents of Nurses' Residential Homes and Clubs are being informed that if a doctor rings them up on the telephone or otherwise and asks for a nurse, if one is recommended even if no percentage is paid to the Superintendent, she is a nursing agent, and unless she pays for a licence from the London County Council she is liable to a fine of £50 a day! This really does seem an outrageous interference with personal liberty. But what I want to know is—What is the position of the medical practitioner under these circumstances?

The patient applies to him for a nurse, and he supplies one. Is he an agent? And if not, why not? Nothing could be more vexatious and absurd than this bit of L.C.C. legislation, concerning which women workers whose livelihood is affected were, of course, never consulted.

Yours,
UNATTACHED PRIVATE NURSE.

THE CELTIC TEMPERAMENT.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Competition is so keen for preferment in the nursing world, that if one finds oneself "out of it" every time one applies for a decently paid post, and others with less training preferred before one, it naturally arouses a sense of injustice. I think that is at the bottom of much of the feeling of injury which Irish nurses are suffering from in Dublin. We don't like women with two years' certificates sent over from London any more than the Bart's nurses do, especially if whilst taking our money they oppose our professional ideals. The Irish people are bright and intelligent, and the Irish nursing world is almost unanimously in favour of the organisation of their profession by State Registration. They consider insult added to injury when women from reactionary London schools bring their obsolete views with them to Ireland, and do all in their power to oppose the passing of the Bill for which we Irish nurses have in the past worked so hard and given so much both in time and money. The Celtic temperament always fights in the open, and cannot tolerate the rear. We don't need dominating from the "large London hospitals," the managers of which in matters professional are a bye word for intolerance all over the world.

From reports in the national nurses' journals, English and Scottish nurses are to be found helping everywhere in forward nursing movements, in the United States, New Zealand, Australasia, and India, no matter from what school they come from in London they are all wisely in favour of State Registration, once free to co-operate. Let it be the same in Ireland, let Englishwomen be "one of us," or let them remain at home.

Yours truly,
AN IRISH NURSE.

THE MORAL STANDARD FOR MIDWIVES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I feel quite with "Certified Midwife and Certificated Nurse," and hope the Midwives' Associations will take up the question

of the "cribbing" candidate, whose examination paper was so mysteriously lost! Women who cheat and tell untruths should not be trusted with human lives, even of the poor. I think everything ought to be done to prevent this dishonorable woman being "certified" by the Midwives' Board. I feel sure if midwives had direct representation on the Board they would protect the poor from such untrustworthy women.

Yours truly,
A LANCASHIRE MIDWIFE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I think your rather irate correspondent is in error in her deductions as to the somewhat extraordinary action of the Central Midwives' Board in regard to the candidate caught red-handed in the act of cribbing. I feel sure that the Board is as desirous as she is to maintain a high moral standard amongst the midwives on the Roll. That the Board takes itself, and its judicial duties very seriously, is the probable explanation of its having erred on the side of leniency towards a woman whose conduct it unanimously condemns. Nothing less than a miracle will make a leopard change the spots of a lifetime in a year, or the untrustworthy become trustworthy in a similar period. Let us hope that for once the miracle will happen.

Yours faithfully,
CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

NURSES AND THE SUFFRAGE PROCESSION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—May I use the medium of your patriotic journal for an earnest reminder.

Shortly before he came to the throne, our King—God bless him—apostrophised his country by the memorable words:—"Wake up England." Slightly paraphrased and conjoined with other classic words, I would say to my sister nurses: Wake up, my sisters, and do not allow it to be our reproach that "the regeneration of Society is in the power of woman, and she turns away from it."

This letter is to remind nurses once more that there will be a Nurses' Section of the Women's Freedom League division of the great Suffrage Procession next Saturday, the 17th, and I earnestly ask that Nurses will come into it, and show their patriotism.

I want there to be a good contingent of nurses. I have been in correspondence recently re the Procession with our mutual friend, the energetic industrious Sister Agnes Karll, and I am delighted to be able to tell you that three German Sisters will walk in this section of the Procession.

Yours hopefully,
BEATRICE KENT,
Hon. Organiser,
Nurses' Section, W.F.L. Procession.
10, Colosseum Terrace, Regent's Park.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR JUNE.

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?

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