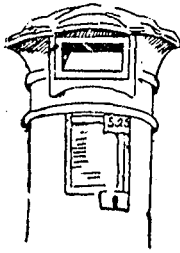


## Letters to the Editor.



*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,—Many thanks for cheque received, value 5s., for competition prize.

Yours sincerely,

MAY CREED.

Trained Nurses' Institute,  
St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.

### THE STATE ENDOWMENT OF MOTHERHOOD.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I think the State Endowment of Motherhood would be splendid. Those of us who spend a good part of our lives in the homes of the poor know how uncomplaining mothers of this class are. They work very often until their hour of travail is upon them, regard the minimum number of days spent perforce in bed as a holiday, and then up they get to work again either in their own houses, or as wage earners, perhaps beginning with the large family wash of which the items have accumulated while they have been lying in bed "doing nothing," as one husband put it.

These brave uncomplaining mothers take this dreary drudgery as a matter of course, but lookers-on see most of the game, and we who stand by realise that puny children with slight resisting powers are too often the offspring of the half-starved mothers, who perform it. Yet the wolf is always near the door, and if the mothers did not fend him off, too often he would be over the threshold.

The State Endowment which would enable a woman to take sufficient rest both before and after her baby was born would not only be an act of humanity to her, but would result in the rearing of a stronger race, and would therefore be money well expended.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

DISTRICT NURSE AND MIDWIFE.

### THE LIGHT AND DARK RACES IN SOUTH AFRICA

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

DEAR MADAM,—I was very interested in the letter published by you from Miss Olive Schreiner on the necessity for the attainment of ennobling and harmonious human relations between the light and dark races of South Africa. Having lived in Africa I know how true it is that we incur a great responsibility when we break down the social institutions and tribal life of the people, and give them nothing in its place. Both men and women must be taught their place in the body politic,

their communal obligations, and their communal rights, or the last state will be worse than the first.

Even the slaves in East and Central Africa, when they belonged to a good master, had this feeling of common life. The abolition of the status of slavery, with all its horrors, is an unqualified good. No man has the right to ownership of his fellow creatures, and the horrors of slavery and the slave traffic, can never be told, but I remember one instance of a slave belonging to a kind master who, when given her freedom, said she felt "lost." She had had a home, and a powerful protector. Now she was a unit, a waif, belonging to no one, with a claim on no one. Of course, with the next generation it will not be so. Children will grow up having family ties, but the present is a very critical time for Africa, especially South Africa, for good or ill, and everyone who loves it and its peoples must do their best to help during this critical transition stage. I do not over-estimate the influence of trained nurses with African races when I say that the power they have for good is very great, and those who are really patriotic can render valuable service to the Empire at the present time.

Yours faithfully,

AFRICANUS.

## Comments and Replies.

*School Nurse, London.*—We agree with you that there is nothing dull about preventive work. It is far better to improve the standard of physical health, and so prevent disease from developing than to allow it to develop because preventive measures have not been taken, and then for doctors and nurses to endeavour to treat and nurse the patient back to health.

*Sister Mary, Liverpool.*—Address Miss Parsons at the office of the National Union of Women Workers, Parliament Buildings, Victoria Street, London, S.W. The School Children's Gardens is a most interesting movement.

*Three Years Certificate, London.*—We think it very advisable for you to obtain training in at least one speciality before taking up private nursing. The cases you will be able to undertake will be very limited if you have only a knowledge of general medical and surgical nursing.

## Notices.

### THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.

Information respecting the Matrons' Council and forms of application for membership may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Miss M. Mollett, Rose Cottage, Three Cross, Wimborne.

### STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

Full information as to the movement for the State Registration of Trained Nurses can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)