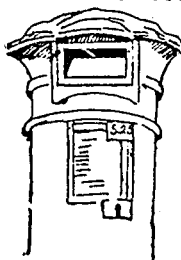


Letters to the Editor.



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.

TEACHERS OF NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I read with much interest your editorial remarks last week on the training of nurses for posts as Ward Sisters by giving them instruction in the art of teaching. I myself have suffered from lack of such teaching. I had a sufficiently good education to enable me to appreciate the lectures we received during my three years' training, and as I was keen about my practical work, and got good ward reports, I came out at the head of the list in the final examination, and was appointed Sister when a vacancy occurred. Then my troubles began. The ward work and ward management were, naturally, quite easy to me, and I loved nursing the patients. But I found—of course I ought to have realised it before—that the nursing of the patients was no longer one of my first duties. The teaching of probationers how to nurse them, the drilling them for examinations in theory and practice, the extraction of intelligence out of relays of more or less intelligent probationers was, although I may mention incidentally this duty is not enumerated on the list of those required of me presented to me on my appointment. I had never had any previous instruction in the art of teaching, my many duties left me no time to obtain it, and besides I disliked it and should never have made a good teacher, and consequently, I realised, a good Ward Sister. The result was I resigned the post much against the advice of many friends, including the Matron of my training school, and joined a good private nursing association where I am now happily working doing work which I am told I do well, and in which I am happy, more than ever convinced that Ward Sisters need special gifts which I do not possess, and that all need special instruction as to the art of teaching probationers, before appointment.

Yours faithfully,
A CONTENTED PRIVATE NURSE.

MIDWIVES AND NATIONAL INSURANCE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am very disappointed that no action was taken by the Central Midwives' Board at their last meeting in relation to asking the Chancellor of the Exchequer to receive a deputation from the Board on the subject of the National Insurance Bill, though Sir George Fordham put down a resolution making that proposition on the Agenda. I do hope that because the question of the Bill as it affects midwives has been referred to the Standing Committee that it is not proposed to shelve the question of the Deputation.

We midwives look to our Governing Body to protect and to voice our interests, as they can speak with greater influence than any society or individual midwives. If the Board had been composed of midwives, or even if midwives had had limited direct representation upon it, there is, I think, no question that before now they would have asked for an interview with Mr. Lloyd George. As it is, it is left to the one layman on the Board to make the proposal, which apparently fell to the ground.

Of course, the interests of medical men and midwives are in opposition in relation to the Insurance Bill, and it is only to be expected that medical practitioners, who form the majority of the Board, should see the situation from the point of view of their own profession. It would not be human nature to do otherwise. But if the Central Midwives' Board do not intend to see the Chancellor of the Exchequer on our behalf it is only the more incumbent on us to look after our own interests.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

[Our correspondent will notice on page 19 that the Midwives' Institute is proposing amendments to the Bill. We have already reported that representatives of the National Association of Midwives formed part of a deputation to Mr. Lloyd George, although, unfortunately, he was compelled to leave to attend the Imperial Conference before the midwives had an opportunity of placing their point of view before him, but it is expected that a further deputation of midwives will attend at a later date.—ED.]

Notices.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

On and after July 1st the address of the business offices of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING will be 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Will our readers kindly note this change of address, and that business communications should no longer be directed to 11, Adam Street, Strand, after that date.

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.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR JULY.

July 1st.—Mention some abnormal appearances of stools, and the probable causes of the condition.

July 8th.—What special virtue has normal salt solution that it is so universally used for intravenous infusion, and some varieties of enemata?

July 15th.—What are some of the complications to be watched for during pregnancy, and their causes?

July 22nd.—From what source is blood renewed after hæmorrhage?

July 29th.—How would you prepare a patient for paracentesis? What instruments and utensils are needed?

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