

NURSING ECONOMICS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Your claim that had not nurses' work been "a marketable commodity the opposition to State Registration of Nurses would have been a negligible quantity" is borne out by economic conditions in Scotland. There is not a hospital with a training school for nurses worth considering which has attached a private nursing department for making money out of nurses' work, and all the four societies of nurses and medical men in Scotland have declared in favour of a system of State Registration of Nurses. Thus nearly every matron in Scotland is now out on the side of the nurses, to help them to obtain just legal status, and incidentally to enable them to protect their industrial position. But the matron of a hospital is not independent of the will of her committee, and had the unjust conditions of work pertained in Scotland which are so prevalent in England I fear many of the matrons would have had to stand aside and taken no part in this great movement for the better organisation of the nursing profession. Scottish nurses owe a debt of gratitude to the pioneer band of English and Irish matrons who for twenty years had been working hard for better nursing conditions before a move was made in Scotland. Don't let us forget that debt!

Yours truly,

A SCOTTISH MATRON.

SALARIES FOR MEMBERS OF MIDWIVES BOARDS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The excellent reports of the proceedings of the Midwives Board which appear in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING are always of interest, and I for one shall be glad if the Board support the contention of Mr. Parker Young, Dr. Herman and Mr. Golding Bird that the members of the Board shall be paid for their services. There is no reason whatever for the responsible professional work of the Board being done as a charity; and, indeed, this insecure financial condition places the certified midwives in a thoroughly false position. Like the governing body of the medical profession, the General Medical Council, the Midwives Board should be elected by the certified midwives and paid a just fee for doing their work. The fact that there is only one midwife nominated by the various societies which have a right to representation on the Midwives Board is proof of how faulty are laws made by men for women. Fancy only *one* medical man on the General Medical Council, the rest of its members being composed of midwives, nurses, and lay men and women! Absurd, of course; but why more ridiculous for a professional body of men than for a professional body of women? Denial of responsibility to women workers—pointing, of course, to their miserable social condition—that is all.

Yours faithfully,

"CERTIFIED MIDWIFE."

THE MISUSE OF NURSING UNIFORM.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—During the trial of the Seddons at the Central Criminal Court for the murder of Miss Barrow (of which Mrs. Seddon was acquitted), Ellen Elizabeth Chaytor, general servant to the Seddons, was asked by Mr. Marshall Hall, K.C., under cross-examination, why she wore nurse's uniform.

According to the *Daily Mail* report the witness replied: "I used to be a nurse years ago." Asked further: "Do you always wear nurse's uniform?" she replied, "I have done so since coming to London, and before then." Later Mr. Marshall Hall returned to the subject with the question: "Why do you wear nurse's uniform as a general servant?" to which the witness replied: "When I first went to Leamington I was engaged there as a nurse, and Lord Leigh was the President of the Home for Incurables."

The examination demonstrated the readiness with which nursing uniform is adopted by all sorts and conditions of people often to the great detriment of the nursing profession, and the public should well understand that its use by no means implies that the wearer is a trained nurse.

Yours,

ONE WHO RESPECTS HER CLOTH.

[On enquiry at the Royal Midland Counties Home for Incurables at Leamington we were informed that about twenty-six years ago Ellen Chaytor was a nurse there for a short time only, and that as her name is not entered on the register of nurses kept there it is assumed that she left at the end of her month's probation. The misuse of nursing uniform is a very serious scandal.—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR APRIL.

April 6th.—What would you do in case of hæmorrhage from the uterus?

April 13th.—Give the recipes of six simple dishes for night nurses, which could be easily made in the ward kitchen?

April 20th.—Describe the modern system of treating and nursing pneumonia.

April 27th.—Give some information on the training of infants.

NOTICES.

If unable to procure THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING through a newsagent, the manager desires to be informed of the fact. Copies can always be procured through Messrs. Smith & Son, and at the office, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

The Editor will always be pleased to consider articles and paragraphs on questions of Practical Nursing, which should be addressed to her at 10, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)