

**BLINDED AND GULLED.**

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I take in your paper, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, regularly, and wish to thank you for such a splendid helpful paper.

It is so helpful as regards the excellent lectures contained therein, though at times you hit hard, especially in regard to "village nurses" like myself, though I have done town work also, &c.

May I point out that we so-called "village nurses" are blinded and gulled when we first set out on our nursing "career," if that name is applicable to the case. I speak the truth. There was no friend at hand in my early—quite early—twenties to point the way to the magic goal of the ambitious probationer, *i.e.*, fully-trained and certificated nurse, so that to-day in my early thirties my position in regard to my training is not very much better.

I think young women of the middle class, such as myself, should be warned against the methods of these "octopuses" known as county associations, at present so prevalent throughout England.

A VICTIM OF SAME.

[We have recently received several letters from village and cottage nurses, deeply regretting wasted time—in having through ignorance gone through a quite insufficient training, and then being compelled to fulfil a contract of three years' service at a very small wage. One writes: "If I had gone to a good hospital I should by now have gained a certificate worth having, known my work and felt safe of the future—now, unless I start afresh, I shall never be really trained—or able to nurse with a clear conscience." We have advised this right-minded woman to start afresh when her contract is completed.—Ed.]

**STERILISED TOWELS.**

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I read with much interest the account of the Maternity Hospital and School for Midwives at Cologne, and especially the fact that the sanitary towels used for the patients are taken from the steriliser with forceps and untouched by the hands.

It is not so many years ago since I called at a large maternity hospital in London, and to my surprise saw a nurse sitting at a table in the front central hall, making sanitary towels of butter muslin or some such material, absorbent wool and tow, and steadily increasing the pile in front of her, the uses of which must have been perfectly obvious to all who passed through the hall. It seemed to me neither seemly nor safe, and I can only hope that with a fuller knowledge of the need for asepsis so undesirable a custom has been abolished. It seems to me also that it is desirable to adopt the steriliser as a portable case rather than the bag which, even if the lining can be boiled, is hardly large enough to hold a useful-sized steriliser, which it is all important a midwife should carry.

Yours faithfully,

CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

**REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.**

S. V. T., London.—We regret we have so little space for sketches and stories. If nurses would take notes on interesting cases, also write on practical nursing points, their contributions would always be welcome.

Sister E., Manchester.—We shall be pleased to give you the introduction you require. Everyone knows everyone, here, there and everywhere in these international times. There is more domestic work in private nursing in new countries than at home.

M. S., Dublin.—Consult the medical officer in charge, or write to the medical press.

Out-patient Sister.—Am glad you found the mask practical, and that it has been adopted in your hospital. Write to Miss Nutting, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York. The cost of journey and living in New York is prohibitive unless you have private means. We are sadly at a loss without such a curriculum in London.

Matron, Scotland.—The policy is to prevent co-operation—a disunited profession is weak and manageable—we might add exploitable!

**OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.**

September 21st.—How would you care for a premature infant at the time of birth, and subsequently?

September 28th.—What records would you keep, and what points would you observe and report upon, as a routine practice, when nursing a case, either in a hospital ward or in a private house?

**NOTICES.****BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS.**

The Editor will be obliged if all business communications, such as requiring extra journals, &c., are addressed to the Manager, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING Office, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., and not to the Editorial office at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.

**OUR ADVERTISERS.**

⌈ We would remind our readers that they can help THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING by dealing as far as possible with advertisers in the paper.

Only advertisements of the most reliable firms are accepted by the management.

**NEW SUBSCRIBERS.**

The Editor hopes that every reader who values THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, will get one or more new subscribers, so that its constructive work for the profession may receive ever increasing support.

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