

nurses individually and through their organisations, and also by their supporters in Parliament, to have this clause amended, but the Bill was rushed through to the imperious liking of Mr. Lloyd George. The term "trained" before "district" nurses and "nurses" would have been a partial guarantee of efficiency, but this is wanting, and approved societies and insurance committees are left with a free hand to do what they please in the provision of nurses. Further, approved societies and insurance committees will labour under disadvantages, for they are practically left without any means of finding out who are trained nurses and who are "quacks."

The best that can be done now is to push forward the Registration Bill, and it is hoped that the public in their own interests, and in the interests of justice to trained nurses, will do their best to remove Parliamentary Bill "blockers." Under the present Government the naval and military nursing services have grown largely, and yet this same Government which builds a house with one hand knocks it down with the other by denying facilities for the legal definition of the term "nurse." If the present position were not one of extreme danger it would be ludicrous. Nurses' organisations are doing all they can, and their trusted supporters in Parliament are doing all they can; it now lies, to a large extent, with the country to remove obstacles at the first opportunity.

I am, &c.

E. A. STEVENSON,

Hon. Secretary The Scottish Society of Trained Nurses;

Vice-President, The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

[We endorse the arguments in this excellent letter, but are the "Nurses' Organisations doing all they can"? We very much doubt it. The members individually might do much more—(1) Pay their subscriptions punctually, to enable the central office to push propaganda; (2) each individual might use her personal influence, through her male voting relations and friends, with the members of their constituencies and she also might urge them to support legislation for Nurses' Registration. Great pertinacity upon the part of each member of every society is what is required. There is no doubt that a very favourite policy of our legislators is to "let sleeping dogs lie." We must refuse one and all to be "sleeping dogs."—ED.]

THE MATERNITY BENEFIT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I notice an excellent suggestion in the JOURNAL this week, that under the National Insurance Act it should be compulsory, in the case of maternity benefit to unmarried women, that upon the grant of an affiliation

order the maternity benefit should be refunded by the father's society to the society in which the mother of his child is insured.

May I also point out that the Act specially provides that "in deciding whether or not they shall make an order under the Bastardy Laws Amendment Act, 1872, for the payment of the expenses incidental to the birth of a child, the justices shall not take into consideration the fact that the mother of the child is entitled to receive maternity benefit under the National Insurance Act."

This is a just provision, but if the expenses are provided for in this way, why should the mother also draw the maternity benefit, which will largely be a charge on funds subscribed by self-respecting, self-supporting women and girls? If the mother of an illegitimate child can tap both these sources of revenue it appears that she will be better off than many married women when her baby is born, which does not seem fair or just.

Yours faithfully,

CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Miss Field, Birmingham.—A turpentine enema in this country is usually given in the medium of gruel. Turpentine is incompatible with soap and water, and should, therefore, never be given with it. An American method is to add turpentine ʒss to the stiffly-beaten white of an egg together with castor oil ʒss, the whole mixed together with a pint of luke-warm water. Properly blended the mixture should make an emulsion from which there will be no irritation of the rectum and anus.

Country Nurse, Rutland.—Write for a Proposal Form for membership of the Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society, to the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. The Society is being specially organized for professional nurses who wish to control their own financial affairs.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR JULY.

July 20th.—How should a specimen of urine be prepared, and how examined?

July 27th.—What are the common sources of bacterial infection?

NOTICE.

THE TRAINED NURSES' FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

Miss Mollett, Hon. Secretary, will be at 431, Oxford Street, W., daily, and will be pleased to give all information possible to those desiring to join a Friendly Society of professional nurses.

Our readers should make a point of reading the correspondence in the *Standard* (Woman's Platform) on the subject of State Registration of Trained Nurses during the past week, and which is still proceeding.

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