

be encouraged by their Matrons as well as the Medical Superintendents to act for themselves in this enormously important professional matter. As Dr. Holroyd Slater stated in his very fine paper on "The Standardisation of the Training of Poor Law Nurses," read at the Yorkshire Poor Law Conference, at Scarborough, "it is as certain as it is desirable that State Registration of all professional nurses will sooner or later be placed upon the Statute Book, and it behoves Poor Law authorities to be ready to meet such an event." We say the same to Poor Law nurses. Let them come out in their thousands and help to accomplish this splendid professional reform. Let them remember their pioneers have been working for twenty-six years to break down the prejudice and self-interest which has obstructed it. An application form for joining the Nurses' Society for State Registration will be found on page 1. Let each one fill it in, and come along and do her duty now.—Ed.]

A NURSE'S WRONGFUL ACTION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In the JOURNAL last week I note, under the above heading, that an instance was brought to the notice of the Insurance Act Committee of the British Medical Association of a case in which the "nurse" in attendance upon a case of miscarriage, in which the pregnancy was of less than three months duration, signed the form enabling the patient to obtain the maternity benefit under the National Insurance Act. Surely this is once again a case in which the misdoings of a midwife are attributed to the nursing profession. It is possible, of course, that she may have been a nurse as well, but the Society which accepted her certificate had no concern with her as such. A doctor is always in charge of a case when a nurse is in attendance, and his certificate would be required not hers. If a midwife delivers a woman, most societies (not all) will accept her certificate as that of the one in charge.

The terms nurse and midwife are used so indiscriminately, even by the medical profession, that it seems worth while to draw attention to this point.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
AMY CALTHORPE.

EVERY CAT'S DAY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—May I through your columns put in a special plea for that long-suffering victim of our civilisation—the domestic cat? Cats have, we know, the same legal protection as any other of the domestic animals, but their lot is often a much harder one, partly because they increase rapidly and have no commercial value, and partly because it is no one's business to look after their welfare. The result is that literally tens

of thousands of them lead homeless, precarious lives in the streets of our large towns, being turned adrift to shift for themselves when their so-called owners are tired of them. Through the benevolence of private persons, there have now been established forty-seven institutions in various large towns for the reception of these strays who are very often brought in in pitiable conditions, diseased, emaciated, covered with sores, or victims of serious accidents.

It is to help these praiseworthy institutions that some years ago October 1st was set apart as "Every Cat's Day," when all who have any feeling for the sufferings of our sub-human dependents are asked to send some little help to the nearest Home or Shelter. A list of such institutions may be obtained from *The Animals' Friend* Office, York House, Portugal Street, Kingsway, London, W.C.

Yours faithfully,
ERNEST BELL, M.A.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Sister M., Liverpool.—We cannot recommend you to go to California. The State is very amply supplied with trained nurses, and we noted recently that the California nurses have found the influx of nurses a serious problem, and have been discussing its economic disadvantages.

T. G. P., London.—Thanks for suggestion. We think it a good one. Why do you not compete in our Weekly Competitions? Before you can write a thing down you must learn up the subject, if you do not know it, and that keeps your knowledge up-to-date.

"American Nurse in London."—Glad to hear from you again. We fear the great expense will only permit of a few nurses going from England to San Francisco. Some are already saving for the purpose. We shall keep you well informed of plans next year.

NOTICES.

OUR CHRISTMAS COMPETITION.

Four Five Shilling Prizes will be awarded in December for the best toys made at a cost of not more than 1s. The toys must be sent to the Editorial Office, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, with a coupon in the issue of December 6th.

OUR WEST END OFFICE.

Copies of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING can always be procured at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., price One Penny.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

October 11th.—How is medicine introduced into the circulation?

October 18th.—Name some germs causing morbid processes in wounds. What are the local symptoms of wound infection?

October 25th.—Describe the Hygiene of Pregnancy for the benefit of mother and child?

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