

## 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.*

## RECIPROCITY AND REGISTRATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I fear Miss Holford does herself too much honour if she thinks that she would be "hauled up" by the Central Midwives Board if she attempted to practise as a midwife in this country. The Midwives Board is a professional body, and as such is concerned only with maintaining standards (very inadequate, I admit) and discipline amongst registered midwives. Any woman who, not being certified under the Midwives Act, takes or uses in England or Wales "the name or title of midwife, or any name title, addition or description implying that she is certified under this Act, or is a person specially qualified to practice midwifery, or is recognised by law as a midwife, shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five pounds," and any woman who habitually and for gain, unless certified under the Act, who attends women in childbirth except under the direction of a medical practitioner is liable on summary conviction to a fine of ten pounds. But she would be prosecuted as a common offender against the law of the land in the police courts in the ordinary way, by the local supervising authority of the area in which the offence was committed. Does not the fact that a lady of the eminence of Miss Holford, a registered midwife and trainer of midwives in New Zealand, finds herself in such an invidious position when she comes to this country prove the necessity for a system of reciprocity between our colonies and the Mother Country, in regard to both midwifery and nursing, and also for a common standard? Why does not Miss Holford ask for an interview with the Central Midwives Board on the subject while she is here?

Yours faithfully,  
CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—As a New Zealand registered nurse working in London, I naturally read the "Chat with Miss Holford" in "The Midwife" last week with sympathy—all she says is true—I cannot practise my midwifery in England, because I really cannot afford time or money to qualify for the C.M.B. certificate. It seems to me disorganised as nursing is in England. We New Zealanders suffer most because there is nothing to prevent English trained nurses coming to New Zealand and being appointed to our best matrons' posts although they are not registered—that certainly is not fair—and we think our Government ought to insist on English nurses

being registered in New Zealand *before* they compete with us in our limited field of promotion. Of course when the Nurses Registration Bill is passed here, and it is high time it was, considering the type of nurse let loose on the public, everything would be just and fair between us. Registration would be reciprocal, and a change of environment would do us all good from time to time.

Yours truly,

A NEW ZEALAND R. N.

[We suggest the New Zealand Trained Nurses' Association petition their Government on the matter—desiring that their petition should be brought to the consideration of the Home Government. It would be a very useful bit of work for the Empire.—ED.]

## HOW TO FEED ENTERIC PATIENTS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I read with much interest the practical results of the competition on the 27th ult. re Nursing of Enteric Fever. May I mention I have often been directed to give cold packs and bedside baths to reduce temperature with very satisfactory results—also to strain all liquid food through a fine sieve, or muslin. The disinfecting of the thermometer was not specially mentioned—it should be kept in a special glass jar marked typhoid, in which wool soaked in a solution of disinfecting lotion has been placed, which should be constantly renewed. Rubber gloves should always be used when giving or removing the bed pan—or in handling any excretions, and in a case which requires constant attention a disinfected bandage tied over the nurse's mouth and nose is a safeguard. A Nurse should be very careful of her health when nursing enteric fever, eat well of nourishing food and take a good brisk walk daily.

Yours truly,

AN OLD CAMPAIGNER.

## 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 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?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)