

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.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM.—I was very much surprised and delighted to receive your cheque for 5s. for the Prize Competition. The weekly questions are of great assistance in helping one to study, and are always interesting.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

Royal Infirmary,
Leicester.

MARY D. HUNTER.

MIDWIFERY IN NEW ZEALAND.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I, as another New Zealand R.N., agree with the one who wrote recently—both about the unfair competition of nurses from England and also midwives. We have to spend three whole years and pass a State examination before we can count as trained nurses in the Dominion. We then have to add six months' midwifery and maternity work before we can count as midwives. Any woman from England can walk in and nurse without her training being tested at home or in the Dominion; and any midwife with three months' experience, who can bring over the certificate of the Central Midwives Board can take rank with us. Is it not most unjust? I see nothing amusing in prohibiting Miss Holford with her years of practical experience, and splendid results at Dunedin, from doing midwifery in England, when any ill-educated village girl who can scramble through the test defined by the Midwives' Board can practise without let or hindrance. I hope your suggestion that our Trained Nurses' Association in New Zealand will take up this question may be acted upon. Indeed, I hear from home that something is being done, and not before time.

Yours very truly,

ANOTHER NEW ZEALAND R.N.

[May we suggest that New Zealand nurses now in England should communicate with Miss Holford on this question at 431, Oxford Street, London, W.—ED.]

NURSING AT TENDRING WORKHOUSE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Your marked copy of issue of 18th to our Head Nurse has been shown to myself, and the article in question being so very unfair, I venture to express the hope that you will, after perusing enclosed, publish some other version of

the matter. As the paragraph now stands, the conditions obtaining in this Institution would appear to be little short of inhuman, and the Guardians also, whereas the opposite is the case. Our inmates generally are very happy and contented, and the staff to an unusual extent enjoy their esteem and regard. As a result of the incident given we are losing the services of two very highly trained Nurses, who naturally resent anyone interfering in their duties beyond the doctor. Their going is a matter of great regret to Matron and myself, our one great aim being when we have such officers, to retain them by giving them their proper status and every possible comfort.

Yours faithfully,

H. J. BURDEN, *Master.*

Union Workhouse, Tendring, Weeley.

[We cannot agree that the paragraph which appeared in the Echoes last week referring to the action of the Tendring Board of Guardians at a recent meeting was unfair. It was a statement of fact. We reported that Mrs. Hooper, moved, and Mr. North, seconded, the following resolution: (1) That the aged, sick and dying in the infirmary be supplied when desired with soft pillows; (2) that instead of iron enamelled mugs for them to drink out of there shall be china mugs in the infirmary ward; and (3) that if it is not possible to always have someone on duty, to summon a nurse in case of a patient requiring attention, there shall be a bell on the side of each bed in the ward in which the patients are confined to their beds.

We remarked that we regretted to learn that the humane suggestions of Mrs. Hooper met with so little sympathy from her male colleagues, as only the proposer and seconder of the motion voted for them. Then we added, "Poor old people!" In the lengthy cutting from the *Essex Telegraph*, sent to us by the Master, Mr. Burden, these facts are substantiated, but it also deals with several details in Workhouse Infirmary management, concerning which we are awaiting further information. We shall hope, therefore, to deal with the whole question at some length next week, including the letter we have received from the nurses for which we regret we have not space in this issue.—ED.]

NOTICES.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

November 1st.—Describe the usual types of worms which infest the intestinal tract. What symptoms do they produce?

November 8th.—What are the duties of a nurse in preparation for, during, and after labour?

November 15th.—What are the special points to be observed when nursing a case of dipsomania?

November 22nd.—What are the causes of tetanus, and what is the nursing treatment?

November 29th.—Mention some of the chief preparations of opium with their usual doses. What are the symptoms of an overdose?

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