

HER WORD, HER BOND.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I feel sure many Army Nurses will regret to hear that Miss E. H. Becher's term of service as Matron-in-Chief of Queen Alexandra's Military Nursing Service is to terminate in a few months' time. Those of us who have worked with her know her sterling worth, we could always rely upon her word, which is the highest praise which in these days can be bestowed upon a public official. I hope you will find space for this letter.

I am, yours,

ONCE A MEMBER Q.A.I.M.N.S.

[We agree that a character for honourable dealing is high praise, especially from a subordinate. We publish this letter with pleasure.—ED.]

THE LABOURER WORTHY OF HIS HIRE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I see in this week's BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING that a reader appeals for more nurses for missionary work; but will the Missionary Societies ever get sufficient workers till they offer a "living wage"? I have come across several nurses who have the "missionary spirit," but who tell me they cannot afford to undertake this work. I made enquiries of one well-known missionary society and found that the salary was not even equal to the smaller ones offered for posts at home, and no pensions were offered, and though a nurse might return ill, it was apparently more as an "act of grace" than a "due" to her that she should be looked after by the society until able to again work, and the society did not promise to do this. We are told "that a labourer is worthy of his hire," and surely a missionary society should set a good example in this respect.

Yours faithfully,

C. S.

THE NURSES' PETITION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—If an additional inducement were needed to make nurses support the Registration Reunion at the Connaught Rooms, on the 26th inst., it is to be found in the announcement in the last issue of the JOURNAL that it is hoped thereby to defray the expenses of the Petition to the Prime Minister recently organised by the Central Committee.

Those of us who attended the never-to-be-forgotten Nursing Pageant at the Connaught Room a few years ago are sure that the present function will be a delightful one, and I for one am eagerly waiting to know whether I can obtain my long leave on that evening, or whether that privilege will fall to my colleague. As we have always to be on duty for one another we cannot both be out on the same evening.

I am, yours faithfully,

LIVING IN HOPE.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Pupil Midwife.—The buttocks of a newly born infant are smeared with vaseline for the first few days in order to prevent excoriation while the tenacious meconium is being passed. Great care must be taken that neither towels used for drying purposes, nor napkins, if ordinary ones are used, are washed in water containing soda, or with any soap except a bland and mild one.

Nurse B., Brighton.—There is no reason to give up the idea of a holiday abroad because of the expense. In Belgium your expenses need not be greater than on a holiday at home, and Ostend is reached in from seven to eight hours from London. Our Channel Islands, especially Sark, are exquisite and cost of living inexpensive. The return fare to Jersey third rail and first boat by Southampton or Weymouth is 38s.

Nurse G., London.—In alcoholic insanity distorted memory may occur, and the patient fill up the gaps in his recollection with entirely fictitious statements. Erroneous reminiscences are common in insanity.

Probationer, Leeds.—Asthma is characterised by dyspnoea, supposed to be due to spasm of the muscles of the bronchi, Nitrite of amyl is often ordered, hot drinks, especially strong coffee, and a mustard bath for the feet may give relief.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

June 20th.—Mention some common causes of convulsions in children, and state how you would manage a child until the arrival of the medical practitioner.

June 27th.—Name the principal points to be remembered when placing a patient on the operating table.

THE BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE REPORT.

A full and official account of the Birmingham Nursing Conference will appear in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. It should be ordered in time to prevent disappointment, either from local newsagents or from the Manager, B.J.N. Office, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Price 1d., postage ½d.

OUR ADVERTISERS.

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The Editor hopes that every reader who values THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING will get one or more subscribers—so that its constructive work for the profession may receive ever increasing support. Advice is given free by the Editor under heading of Replies to Correspondents. If unable to obtain the JOURNAL through a newsagent, the Manager desires to be informed of the fact.

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