

[Miss Dock usually is right, all the same we British Nurses have put our shoulders to the registration wheel, and we mean to make it go round. The enfranchisement of women would oil its rusty old hinges most certainly.—ED.]

LEGAL STATUS NEEDED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Please allow me to thank you for your article in the issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, of September 13th, on State Registration in this Colony. It has done a great deal of good here, and several nurses who never before realized how keen a watch they ought to keep on their professional journal, have told me that they intend, for the future, to urge that it uses its influence in favour of the affiliation of our two professional associations in one Council of Nurses, so that we may be eligible to enter the International Council of Nurses, which seems to be such a wonderful uplifting influence with the National Councils of all countries associated in it. I do hope that some members of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses Association will be able to attend its meeting in San Francisco in 1915, and that they will go, not simply as fraternal delegates, but as full delegates from our National Council.

You will have heard that Miss Bell the Matron of the Melbourne Hospital has resigned her membership of the R.V.T.N.A. because it will not recognize the C.M.B. certificate or that of some of the best Maternity Hospitals at home. I quite agree with her views but regret her resignation, as I think we ought to stand out for the reciprocal agreement, and how can we if those who feel most strongly about it resign?

Yours faithfully,
VICTORIA.

Melbourne, Victoria.

[We dealt with this question fully in our last issue. We hope that Victorian Nurses and Midwives will work to obtain legal status, and then for reciprocity, between their legally constituted authorities and those in this country. Until such time as the Governing Body of the Midwives in Victoria works under State authority, they will be well advised to recognize certificates of such acknowledged standing in the United Kingdom as those of Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, and the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin.—ED.]

DEGRADING TO ANIMALS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—The attempt which is to be made to purify the animal training profession by a system of licenses for good and humane showmen is, we think, ill-advised and foredoomed to failure, chiefly because the purification of a practice based on a wrong principle and liable from its nature to abuse from start to finish, is impracticable.

If an actual performance can be certified clean, who can vouch for the previous training behind closed doors in foreign countries as well as here?

If the training could be vouched for who can prevent the cruelty of transit? For instance, we heard the other day of a giraffe conveyed by rail from Hamburg to Italy. The only way in which this could be done was to force him on his knees and tie his neck down in an unnatural position and let him travel in this pitiful condition for 48 hours. Would a license prevent a showman from doing this if his business demanded it?

Even if the license could be guaranteed no license could condone the keeping of animals in the conditions unavoidable at the back of a theatre or circus.

And the result is a silly show; an elephant walking on his hind-legs, or a dog on his forelegs; a lion jumping through a paper hoop, or an ape smoking a pipe—all degrading to the animals and demoralising to the public, who go away with the idea that we have a perfect right to exploit animals in this stupid fashion for trade purposes and to use them in any other cruel way which may add to our amusement.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD BELL.

Animals' Friend Society,
Portugal Street, W.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

District Nurse, London.—Eugenics denotes the study of those agencies under social control which improve, or impair the social qualities of future generations either physically or mentally." It is one of the most important problems confronting the nations at the present day.

J. E. P., Lady Superintendent, India.—Write (1) to the Clerk to the London County Council, County Hall, Spring Gardens, London, S.W.; (2) to the Secretary, Order of St. John of Jerusalem, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, London, E.C.; (3) to the Secretary, British Red Cross Society, 9, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

January 31st.—What is a hydatid cyst? Mention the two commonest situations in which they are found, also the surgical emergencies which are likely to occur in connection with them.

February 7th.—In nursing a case of diphtheria what possible complications would you guard against, and how? What precautions have you seen observed for the safety of contacts?

NEW SUBSCRIBERS.

The Editor hopes that every reader who values THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING will encourage her friends to subscribe for it, so that its constructive work for the profession may receive ever increasing support. Don't forget that it is the only weekly journal edited by a trained nurse, and which supports (1) an efficient standard of Nursing Education, (2) State Registration of Nurses, and (3) Just Economic Conditions for Nurses. See subscription form, page xii.

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