

one of the principal London hospitals, where they witnessed three severe abdominal operations on women, and a fourth for removal of a tumour in the breast. It is not surprising that some of the youthful onlookers fainted, but if it is necessary for stretcher bearers to become accustomed to ghastly scenes, it would surely be more in keeping with their prospective duties in the field to take them to the male accident wards of our larger hospitals, rather than allow them to witness operations upon women, which in the case of young boys of nineteen to twenty years of age is, to say the least, most indelicate.

If the parents of boys would join in protesting against such "training," possibly those responsible for it would see the error of their methods.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

PATERFAMILIAS.

Can nothing be done to express our indignation?

Yours truly,

MARY C. ALLEN.

THE MATERNAL INSTINCT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Your article on the "Maternal Instinct" has interested me very much, but also it has appalled and distressed me. Poor little babies! They are as innocent as their mothers, and while deeply sympathising with the latter and remembering the awfulness of their position, I cannot think the children should be murdered. In many cases, perhaps, in most it may be right to relieve the poor mother of the task of bringing up her child, but surely the murder of the innocent can never be justifiable. If care by the nation goes for anything these children should be physically very fit, as Germany for years has studied everything for the well-being of her Army, and for morals I have always believed training and association are stronger than inheritance, beside which they have *at least* an average of good morals on the mothers' side. I am quite sure if I had not to earn my living in other people's houses I should have no fear in adopting one of these poor unwanted babes and have no doubt I should love it as one always does a child who, through no fault of its own, is getting less than its share of love from the rest of the world.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

Kenilworth Avenue,
Wimbledon Park, S.W. E. M. DICKSON.

Our correspondent refers to the view held by responsible persons that the production of abortion is justifiable in the terribly sad cases in which women and girls have become the unwilling victims of German lust.—ED.]

POOR PRIVATE PATIENTS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—The following qualifications are advanced by a candidate for general training: "I have had six months' experience in a nursing home, and I am doing a little private nursing now."

MATRON GENERAL HOSPITAL.

[Nothing but State Registration will protect the sick from exploitation by the unqualified.—ED.]

ANOTHER TRUE TALE WITH A MORAL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The following episode may interest you and throw some light on the modern nursing question. A Superintendent Nurse asked her staff to contribute to the Nightingale Chair; one nurse replied she thought it rather a lot to give for a chair, which could be got very cheap anywhere!

Yours faithfully,

E. E. PLEASE.

Felixstowe.

We have received a letter from Miss Cox Davies, a member of the Army Nursing Board, touching on our discussion with the Chairman of the London Hospital on Military Nursing. We regret that, as it takes a column and a-half of space, we are compelled, with several other letters, to hold it over until our next issue.

NOTICE.

A course of lectures for Trained Nurses will be given in connection with the Training School for Tuberculosis at the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, E.C., which will include Demonstrations in Tuberculosis Work. For particulars of the course, which will begin on March 30th, application should be made to the Matron of the hospital. Now that so many nurses are taking up work as Health Visitors, Tuberculosis Visitors, School Nurses, District Nurses, and Sanitary Inspectors, experience of this kind is specially valuable.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

March 13th.—What are the special points to be observed on receiving a patient for admission to a hospital or infirmary ward?

March 20th.—Show how a nurse may be a "carrier" of infection from one patient to another.

March 27th.—What are colds?

OUR ADVERTISERS.

We would remind our readers that they can help THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING by dealing as far as possible with advertisers in the paper, and getting their friends to do likewise. Only the most reliable firms are accepted by the management.

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.

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