

expect anything would be done, because the Sister, not having rank, was not entitled to be obeyed, and this, both the orderlies and patients knew, so that if the order didn't always suit, according to military rule no punishment could be meted out to the offenders.

But here is a different matter. Supposing a Sister has been ill, and is ordered to the country to convalesce, she is given a concession ticket, which entitles her to half fare; this is given her for a first class ticket, because she is an officer and therefore must travel as befits her rank. Again, her brother is a private. He is home on leave from the front, where he has been doing his bit for his own sister and many another grateful sister, but they must not be seen in public together if they be in uniform, because she is an officer, and must not degrade her rank.

If the Sister is not entitled to the privileges of an officer, why expect her to spend her meagre salary on first class tickets and the like? If she is an officer, why put her to the humiliation of handing her monthly late pass to the military police at the door of her hospital, and of being counted like sheep by them, before being allowed to enter? Can anyone in their wildest moments see British officers putting up with this?

I do really think that if all Army Sisters held commissioned rank it would be the means of demanding more respect from the men, in saying men I don't altogether mean patients, especially if it had been explained to them, that Sisters ranked as their officers, and not as corporals, or sergeants, as they now suppose.

It seems rather a pity to me that Sisters are not trusted more. Put them on their honour, and don't treat them like so many silly flighty school girls. Why stand in the way of the advancement of the Army Sister because things were done differently fifty years ago? We are apt to forget we are in the midst of the greatest upheaval the world has known, and things cannot be expected to go on quite the same with the Army Sister and her work as it does in the very uneventful life of the Pukka Sister in peace time.

I am sorry to have trespassed to such an extent. I take great pleasure in reading your journal, because of its fairness and great efforts to better the nursing profession.

COLONIAL.

#### UNHONOURED AND UNSUNG.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Little did I think, when writing you a few weeks ago, that my letter was going to drag me into the limelight. And even yet I don't see that I have done anything worthy of notice.

But to reply to Miss Kent. I did not fail to notice her mention of Liebig in her article as the discoverer of chloroform early in the last century; but to my mind Liebig and Simpson seem to have no connection.

It is years since I read the chloroform story, probably in "Rab and His Friends," and at the time formed the independent opinion that the

Linlithgow chemist was the "real discoverer of the *beneficent power*" of chloroform. Whereas Miss Kent is only following the popular error (as I consider it) in giving Simpson all the praise. If she will kindly refer to my letter, I think she will find that I gave my opinion as *mine*, not as hers; or is my memory at fault? To be sure Simpson was trying to find something that would nullify pain, and let it be known in the proper quarter. Several of his friends submitted agents that they thought likely to meet his want, and amongst the rest this Linlithgow chemist gave the very specimen of chloroform which sent the experimenters "under the table," as described by Miss Kent in the article, "Ether Day." That is as I read the story, and as it has lain on a shelf of my memory ever since. Honour to whom honour is due. Without the chemist the physician was pretty nearly helpless, and whereas there is a fine statue of the physician in Prince's Street Gardens, the chemist is "unhonoured and unsung." Trusting that too much valuable space has not been used, and that the misunderstanding has been cleared up.

I am, yours,

E. HORTON.

Glasgow.

#### PROPOSALS FOR A STATE-AIDED MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have read with much interest the proposals in regard to a State-Aided Midwifery Service.

In this connection, a fee of 5s. for ante-natal work, means a probable average of five months' supervision, skilled advice on hygienic matters in regard to the health of the expectant mother and of the home, the necessary articles to procure, the periodical testing of urine, &c. Even if only one visit a month is paid, and the distance covered is only a mile each way, the remuneration suggested brings the work to be done very near the border line of sweated labour.

It is pointed out that if a system of whole time midwives were exclusively employed a considerable number who do not undertake sufficient work for a whole-time appointment, and who do not wish to do so, would be practically excluded.

I am of opinion that if a service of whole time midwives were established, the part time midwives would fall into line.

Yours faithfully,

CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

##### QUESTIONS.

October 20th.—(a) What is meant by prolapse of the cord? (b) What are the changes of such a position? (c) How would you treat such a case until the doctor arrives?

October 27th.—Describe the phases of an epileptic seizure. State what you would do for a patient during one and afterwards.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)