

Wherever the course is taken, whether at a Polytechnic or elsewhere, it must be conducted by, or in close association with, a University Institution, and must provide for both theoretical and practical training in about equal proportions.

Miss Alderman appears to disapprove of training being given at the Battersea Polytechnic. So far as I am acquainted with the training given there I should say it is very well qualified to arrange theoretical courses for this purpose.

I certainly join issue with Miss Alderman in her view that it "is an insult to the motherhood of our country" that the course need not include the whole of the syllabus prescribed for the certificate of the Central Midwives' Board.

If there is one thing the Health Visitor should not do it is that she should not visit midwifery cases while a midwife is in charge. The midwife is already under the authority of the Medical Officer of Health and the Inspector of Midwives, and what confidence will her patient have in her if the Health Visitor also comes round giving advice?

Why then should the Health Visitor be required to know all the highly technical details of practical midwifery when they are not included in the sphere of her work?

Yours faithfully,  
MARGARET BREAY.

Crossways, Chilworth.

[This communication refers to the letter of Miss Alderman which appeared in our issue of September 13th.—Ed.]

#### TRAINED NURSES IN PUBLIC HEALTH.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I point out to trained nurses in Public Health work that there is not the slightest ground for making the statement that, "in the near future, the demand for fully-trained nurses in public health work will be greater than the supply to meet it." Wherever a public health appointment is properly advertised, the medical officers and committees have plenty of applications from fully-qualified nurses holding additional qualifications. Generally, six candidates are selected for one or two appointments.

In providing three types of training, the Ministry of Health are providing themselves with complications sufficient to carry on a hundred years' war. You cannot put graduates of an approved curriculum under trained nurses, or trained nurses under graduates who are not trained. Girls of twenty may resent their responsibility being limited, because they have been recognised as *Health Visitors* by the Ministry of Health. The regulations expressly state that they may be recognised as Health Visitors. They are also to be given a certificate. Already many applications from trained nurses for health training have been rejected, and the applications of girls from secondary schools entertained. There is no open door. The statement, "such students will, however, often desire to take a further course of training, such as that for the certificate of the C.M.B.,

or they may, in the first instance, take posts of limited responsibility in infant welfare centres or elsewhere," does not *bind* a girl to take a post of limited responsibility or *bind* any authority to employ her in that capacity. She is hall-marked as a *Health Visitor*. She emerges on the same level as a trained nurse who has had four or five years' training.

1. The regulations of which I disapprove were presumably submitted to the Ministry of Health, and were largely drawn up by the Women Sanitary Inspectors' Association. I have met those regulations before.

2. No advisory council of trained nurses in public health was invited to offer any healthy criticism before they were adopted.

3. The growing need and the increased demand for the services of trained nurses has been deliberately concealed, especially has the fact been concealed that all well-managed centres and dispensaries are in the charge of trained nurses. The numbers of trained nurses in public health have not been tabulated.

4. Medical men and women holding appointments in public health departments all over the country have been ignored.

5. Throughout the document the main idea is the creation of training and positions for girls and graduates who are not trained nurses. The nature of public health work and the needs and rights of the people are not thus best considered.

I remain,

Yours truly,

C. MARGARET ALDERMAN.

#### KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

"Canadian Nurse": "I had the delight of seeing the Prince of Wales when he was in Toronto. He is a dinky darling."

*Out of Work*.—"Surely, if Sir Arthur Stanley is head of the College for *Trained Nurses*, he should make it a rule, as Chairman of the Joint War Committee, that V.A.D.s are not permitted to do private nursing for which they are not qualified. The College cannot serve God and Mammon."

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

##### QUESTIONS.

October 11th.—Name and differentiate between the different kinds of hæmorrhage met with in pregnancy.

October 18th.—How are foods digested? Name the various juices secreted by the different parts of the alimentary canal.

October 25th.—In what ways may a patient's breathing be affected, and what is their significance?

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