

3. To disabuse the public mind of the idea that "sowing wild oats" is to be regarded as distemper in the puppy—a necessary evil, the sooner over the better.

4. To insist on notification and a heavy fine for failure to comply with the regulation, or to seek treatment.

5. A severe punishment for infecting another person, or, as this might be difficult to prove, for any connection taking place before the infected person was certified free from infection.

The medical profession (male portion) have sacrificed everything to secrecy. I have known members of families exposed to infection because to warn them for their safety might have involved the so-called "honour" of the head of the family or involved the medical attendant in a libel suit. Again, an eminent medical man lately voiced the opinion "that you could not expect the same moral code from men as women!" If not, why not? We must! The fact that notification was compulsory would in itself deter many and save not a few families. It is curious how much evil is averted when the evil-doer knows his deeds will be made public. I am, &c.,

J. B. N. PATERSON.

BUMBLEDOM IN BERMONDSEY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I beg to call your attention to the following advertisement in the *Hospital* of April 24th:—

(Copy.)

"BOROUGH OF BERMONDSEY.

Applications are invited for the appointment of two Midwives.

Salary, £220, rising by annual increments of £10 to £250 per annum.

The persons selected are to provide and wear, when on duty, a nurse's uniform, to be approved by the Public Health Committee.

Candidates are to hold the certificate of the Central Midwives Board, be registered Midwives, and will be required to belong to a Trade Union," &c.

Surely a Midwife has every right to belong or not to a trade union, as she wishes. It is the affair of the Council that she be well and fully-trained, and that she will act to the best interest of the mothers and babies, but are not her political and industrial views purely her own concern?

I should be glad to know what readers of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING think of the above stipulation.

Yours faithfully,

THEODORA HARRIS.

180, Uttoxeter Old Road, Derby.

[We strongly disapprove of compulsion by employers of nurses and midwives, especially by those who administer the rates, or charitable funds. What right has a Public Health Committee to compel a midwife to wear "nurse's uniform"? We find a smack of "Bumble" in this most objectionable advertisement and should like to hear the opinion of our readers on its provisions.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE. "LIVING OUT."

One of the New Generation.—"I gather you are not in favour of the 'living out' system for hospital nurses and probationers. May I enquire why? When I give reasons in opposition to it, I am described as 'a back number,' 'moth eaten,' and otherwise out of date."

[We are opposed to the "living out" system for the simple reason that it tends to disorganize the routine necessary for the efficient nursing of the patients. We are also of the opinion that irresponsible persons have no right to administer hospitals for the sick unless they conform to regulations providing for the healthy housing of the resident medical staff and the nursing and domestic staffs, and that all such institutions should be inspected by experts. We feel sure the hospitals themselves would benefit by publicity, as their work when well organized is absolutely indispensable to the community.—ED.]

WHO'S WHO.

Miss Mary Travers (London).—"B.J.N. splended this week. "Who's Who" on the General Nursing Council" just what the nurses wanted to know. Every nurse who intends to register (and no doubt we all do) should have a copy. I congratulate myself that you are there to help to make our rules. We know we shan't be let down."

Miss Grace Harvey, Liverpool.—"Glad to see Liverpool has a Matron on the Nursing Council. A great honour and a great responsibility. Am not quite sure we deserved it, as a city we did little to support legal status for nurses in the past—indeed, for long we opposed it." •

[Now that the great victory is won, Liverpool must help to make nursing the fine profession it should be. Unity and *esprit de corps* must be our watch words in the future.—ED.]

OUR OWN CHILDREN.

Military Nurse.—"Those of us who worked for months in the devastated districts in France heartily welcome your remarks concerning the 'Save the Children Fund.' It is outrageous—bringing German children to England. Help them if need be, but keep them in their own country. All this silly, sentimental 'tosh,' encouraged by persons who presumably kept safely in England during the war (to judge from the names of Patrons), has naturally aroused strong feelings in France. No wonder. Moreover, I note the Waifs and Strays Society have a heavy overdraft through feeding, clothing, sheltering and training 4,531 of our own children; and the Fresh Air Fund is very poorly supported. Charity begins at home."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS. QUESTIONS.

May 8th.—Prescribe a diet for a case of diabetes. Give a warning of what to avoid. Outline diet for cases of (a) Pneumonia; (b) Nephritis.

May 15th.—What are the symptoms of the presence of adenoids and diseased tonsils in a child? What ill results may follow their neglect?

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