

to the general public in sickness. This can only be assured if thoroughly trained nurses have a reasonable hope of being able to make a living if they adopt this branch of work. The competition at the present time is exceedingly keen, and if there is to be increased competition from partly-trained specialists, and from V.A.D.s admitted to the General Part of the State Register, and having consequently the right to use the title of "Registered Nurse," and the prestige which such registration confers, it is not reasonable to expect that well-educated women will undertake so precarious a branch of nursing.

My Committee, on which the nurses have representation, consider that if any such Rule as that now proposed, were to be adopted this should have been done before a contract was made with the nurses under Rule 9 (1) (b), and that it would be a great breach of faith with the thousands of nurses who have paid for registration under the present Rules.

They, therefore, hope that the Minister will not now accept the Scottish Rule.

WHY BOY BABIES DIE MORE EASILY THAN GIRL BABIES DO.

There is a fact which has puzzled people for many years. Each year there are more boy babies born than girl babies, yet there is a higher death-rate among boy babies than girl babies. The problem of this high mortality rate among boy babies is one to which the *Daily News* has recently drawn special attention. In connection with National Baby Week (July 1st to 7th) this year, that paper offered a 100 guineas prize to the writer of the best essay on the problem of male infant mortality, expecting that the competing essays would be of a high scientific order. That expectation had not been disappointed.

The winner of the competition, whose name has been announced, is Dr. F. E. Wynne, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health for Sheffield. The judging was carried out by a Committee of the National Baby Week Council, consisting of Eric Pritchard, M.D., Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Baby Week Council, Charles Porter, M.D., C.M., B.Sc., M.R.C.P., Medical Officer of Health for St. Marylebone, H. R. Kenwood, C.M.G., M.B., C.M., L.R.C.P. D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health for Stoke Newington, Professor of Hygiene in University of London, A. Bostock Hill, M.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., Consultant Medical Officer of Health for Warwickshire, Professor of Hygiene, Birmingham University.

Dr. Wynne's essay is of a highly technical nature and is, by arrangement with the *Daily News*, to appear in due course, in *National Health*, the organ of the National Baby Week Council.

IN THE DISTRICT.

Doctor (wishing to examine child): Now, Mrs. Smith, you are not transparent.

Woman: Quite right, Sir, I ain't; I'm his step-mother.

THE ELECTION.

12, York Gate, Regent's Park,
London, N.W.1,
22nd December, 1922.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—I think that as Returning Officer I owe it to the constituency not only to say how sorry I am that the Election has had to be postponed, but also to explain how that came to be necessary.

I had to arrange for the issue of the voting papers in November. This involved the addressing of 12,000 covering envelopes, and of 12,000 identification envelopes, and that each covering envelope should be filled with four separate enclosures and then posted.

This is a heavy piece of work, which it was quite impossible to carry out at our own office. Every available room in the house was, at that time, filled with clerks, and all were working at high pressure to push through in time for the Council of November 17th, as many as possible of the great number of applications that we had received during August and September. It was out of the question to stop this work, and even if I had engaged a fresh troop of clerks for the issue of the voting papers I could not have found room for them to sit.

I, therefore, decided that the only possible plan was to employ an addressing Agency, which I accordingly did. Full instructions, both verbal and written, were given and were understood. But, nevertheless, apparently in the hurry of the last day before posting, the mistake was made of putting into the envelopes addressed to Mental Nurses and Sick Children's Nurses the General Nurses' voting paper, as well as their own. This, of course, produced a shortage of the General Nurses' voting papers so that a large number of their envelopes remained, for which no voting papers were available. As soon as I ascertained what had happened I was obliged to quash the election.

Allow me to add another point. I think that a misapprehension exists in the minds of a few members of the constituency as to the meaning of the identification envelope, and why this has to be numbered by me and signed by the voter. With your permission I will write a short note on this subject in your next issue.

I am, Madam,
Yours obediently,

W. P. HERRINGHAM.

Chairman, General Nursing Council
for England and Wales.

The Centenary Celebrations of Louis Pasteur, greatest of scientists, are being observed with all honour. On Wednesday the President of the French Republic, M. Millerand, attended at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, where after the public ceremony he received the French and foreign delegates.

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