

THE PROFESSIONAL NURSING, MIDWIFERY, AND PUBLIC HEALTH EXHIBITION.

At the Professional Nursing, Midwifery and Public Health Exhibition at the New Horticultural Hall, Westminster, from March 2nd to 6th, inclusive, "Cow and Gate" of Cow & Gate, Ltd., Surrey, held pride of place just opposite the entrance, and Mr. Hutcheon was there to explain the scientific aspect of the many specialities of the firm. Peptolac, a new product, a predigested milk food prepared by the addition of hot water, aroused much interest.

Our old friend Bovril, Ltd., Food Specialists and Contractors to His Majesty's Army and Navy, of 148-166, Old Street, E.C., were showing Bovril, Invalid Bovril and Bovril Chocolate. Virol Ltd., had on view Virol and Virol and Milk, a golden powder used in more than 3,000 Hospitals, Sanatoria and Welfares, and Virolax, the Nutrient Laxative. Who would not pause at the Stand of J. G. Ingram & Sons, Ltd., of the London India Rubber Works, Hackney Wick, to enquire the price of their renowned hot-water bottles.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

ANÆSTHETICS IN CHILDBIRTH.

An Urgent Need.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM.—The decision of the London County Council to provide light anæsthesia for the maternity cases in six London hospitals is a very welcome piece of news to those who have been working for years to get this relief made available to all classes.

Few seem to realise that up to 1928 the blessing of anæsthesia during labour was reserved for the rich, no alleviation whatever being allowed to hospital patients, however great their suffering, unless operative measures were required. Inquiries at many hospitals showed that the proportion receiving any relief was less than 10 per cent. of the whole, although over 90 per cent. for paying patients.

In May, 1928, Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital appointed a special anæsthetist for this work. At first only 60 per cent. received relief, but the results proved so excellent, both from the humane and the medical standpoint, that in 1929 the Medical Committee recommended the extension of the practice. Anæsthesia is now provided for 96 per cent. of the cases, a figure which has been maintained for many months without any ill-result to mother or child.

These figures effectively dispose of the excuses so commonly advanced by those hospitals which still allow their patients to suffer avoidable agony, namely, that the mothers do not want it or that it is injurious to health. University College Hospital, the Royal Free Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, and others have now followed the example of Queen Charlotte's, and have appointed resident anæsthetists, in some cases aided by finance supplied by Mrs. Stanley Baldwin's Anæsthetic Fund.

Now that the L.C.C. have also recognised the need, it is to be hoped that those voluntary hospitals which do not yet provide anæsthetics for maternity cases will realise the urgent necessity of doing so. There can be no real excuse for continuing to penalise the poorer mothers by withholding from them the simple relief which medical science has long since approved for richer patients.

I am, etc.,

JULIET WILLIAMS,
(Lady Juliet Williams)
Hon. Treasurer, Queen Charlotte's Hospital
Anæsthetic Fund.

WHY SISTER-TUTORS REQUIRE A LEAGUE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—One more reason why Sister-Tutors require a League. We have a great deal to teach; we have, too, much to unteach. When will ward and lecture room methods be so correlated that they are not antagonistic?

One day I lecture upon obedience and loyalty; the next I am explaining that ward practices will not pass muster in the examination room.

Great is the strain upon the Tutor, the bewilderment of the probationers, and the adverse effect upon the pass list.

Yours faithfully,

ANOTHER D. N.

PLEASE REPEAT THE PAGEANT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Those who were present at the never-to-be-forgotten Pageant on "The Evolution of Trained Nursing and the Right of Life to Health" in 1911, have realised that since the Nurses' Registration Acts were passed an Epilogue was needed, and it was a happy thought that you should read this (as written by the late Miss W. J. Mollett at your request, to complete your idea of the Pageant but never till then presented), on "Registration Day" and the presentation of the Barnett Memorial Silver Platter to the British College of Nurses on December 20th.

Is it too much to hope that one day the Pageant may be presented in public in its completed form, and not for one evening only, but for at least a week? I know it is asking a great deal of you, but I am sure it would be deeply appreciated by many Registered Nurses. Twenty years ago many nurses did not realise its symbolism and significance who would do so now, and no better lesson in Nursing History could be given to Nurses in training. May I put in a strong plea for this, therefore, if it is in any way possible. What a splendid procession of Nurses' Self-Governing Organisations with banners there could be now.

Please consider it, dear Madam.

Yours faithfully,

ONE WHO TOOK PART IN THE 1911 PAGEANT.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor begs to thank the large number of readers from many parts of the world who have recently sent expressions of their great appreciation of the JOURNAL which "we read from cover to cover."

An Ever Watchful Eye.

A Sister Tutor writes: "I got the Brockway Bill as you suggested, full of disastrous recommendations. Not one word about the poor patient unless he is *in extremis*, and whatever happens at the end of twelve hours he must be deserted—quite in the Hackney method! As for those four hour meals—surely this is the first time appetites have been legislated for in any Bill. A work-shy, degrading document. You may depend on me to discuss it with our M.P., who is Labour but open to reason."

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR APRIL.

What do you know of extra-uterine pregnancy? What are its dangers, and how is it usually treated?

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