

MILK IS SUSPECT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I notice that even by persons who should know better the advice is frequently given to expectant mothers to consume considerable quantities of milk during pregnancy. Why? Even were it absolutely pure it is by no means an ideal diet in these cases, being difficult of digestion by many, and is it not a fact that milk is frequently not pure? Why otherwise the demand for its pasteurisation? It is an admission that milk is suspect.

It may be argued that it is possible to obtain the milk of tuberculin-tested herds. That is so, to a limited extent, but it is unlikely that the average working-class mother will realise this, and, moreover, as has recently been pointed out, even if the cows are submitted to the tuberculin test no guarantee is necessarily given that their milk is free from the bacillus of tuberculosis. And what about the milk of the numerous herds to whom this test is not even applied? Is it not then the height of unwisdom to take the responsibility of advising expectant mothers to drink milk, when they, having confidence in the advice so given, may consume with it the tubercle bacillus which may infect their unborn offspring, for we are authoritatively informed that much tuberculosis in young children is of bovine origin.

The point is one on which I feel strongly, wherefore my reason for asking for the hospitality of space in our JOURNAL in the hope that the question may be discussed.

Yours faithfully,

LOGIC.

NURSES HELP YOURSELVES.

Private Nurse writes: Is it not time we had an ethical code defined for the Nursing Profession? Two cases recently reported in the press, in which private nurses were associated with two baronets, one as a co-respondent in a divorce case, and the second from whom trustees claimed to recover articles, part of gifts amounting to £5,000, in the bankruptcy case of the donor.

Neither of these women were registered as far as I can gather, why therefore were they employed by persons attended by medical practitioners in a nursing home, and in a private house?

If nursing home proprietors, institutions and doctors were careful to employ only registered nurses, we should have some protection of ethical standards through the action of the Disciplinary Committee of the General Nursing Council.

Private Nurses appear to have no redress and the actions of these free lances reflect upon us all. No wonder the public fear to admit us to their homes, as many of them do, and treat us with suspicion instead of confidence.

Ethical standards would prohibit private nurses taking gifts from patients, and breaking up homes by their immoral behaviour. Can nothing be done?"

[We sympathise with our correspondent, but the apathy of Private Nurses in failing to unite to protect themselves is the reason of their very serious difficulties (see Editorial "The Plight of Private Nurses"). One thing they can do is to protest when the General Nursing Council keeps thieves—or reinstates them on the State Register—and to refuse to work with unregistered nurses in private practice.

What action is the Nursing Profession as a whole taking to express its strong disapproval of the action of the London County Council in deciding to employ *unregistered nurses as Sisters*, and thus use public money to degrade the status its members should enjoy under the Nurses Registration Act? If the Profession had an ounce of courage it would hold a Public Meeting and expose this grave injustice far and wide.

The fact that a medical woman is chairman of the Committee which has proposed and intends to carry out this

inexcusable policy, adds insult to injury. Nurses, help yourselves and ethical standards will be established.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

A *Public Health Nurse* writes: "I have been very interested in the correspondence which has been going on in *The Times* about left-handed writing. It should help school-nurses and perhaps enable them to aid some children who, through no fault of their own seem dull and indifferent, but are handicapped by some unusual brain formation, and when forced to use the right hand experience the difficulty caused by this, and consequently appear careless and stupid. Again Mr. F. G. Turner of Tormore School, Upper Deal, has noted that a left handed person made to write right-handed nearly always stutters, and says that all his worst stutters have been left-handed boys taught to write with their right hands before they came to him. When allowed to write with their left hands they do not stutter. All of this goes to prove that we should be on the look out for every scrap of information bearing upon our work, so as to understand and help the misunderstood instead of blaming them."

A Salvation Army Hospital for China.

Captain Mary Layton, M.B.C.N., writes from Ting Hsien Hospital, Hopei, China:—"The Salvation Army have opened up their first Hospital in North China. I enclose *The Crusader*, in which the opening is described. Until the present I have been in Pekin studying the language, which is not easy by any means, but somehow I manage to make myself understood. The weather is very beautiful although the air is very cold; still each day the deep blue sky and the constant sunshine is a real treat."

[Captain Nurse Layton is in charge of the nursing of the new hospital, where provision is made for male and female patients, apart from general cases. Midwifery will receive special attention, the Captain being fully qualified in all branches of nursing.

Dr. and Mrs. Swain are in charge of the hospital—the Salvation Army is primarily concerned with saving the souls of men, and firmly believes that this work can be done in ministering to the physical needs of the community. Medicine and nursing are two potent factors in the work of the "Army"—ED.]

NOTICE.

The History of the International Council of Nurses, 1899-1925.

Those who wish to secure copies of *The History of the International Council of Nurses, 1899-1925* (illustrated), will do well to place their orders with Miss M. Breay, Hon. Treasurer, National Council of Nurses, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1., as soon as possible. A very satisfactory sale has taken place during the past month. Price, 5s., post free.

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