

The Midwife.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in any way hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

Miss L. L. Dock writes from Fayetteville, U.S.A.: "I can hardly realise that Miss Breay has been taken from this tragic, sorrowful world, but I can only be glad that it is so, though I cannot think of our world of nursing affairs without her. I was saddened again by reading of the death of Miss Huxley.

"Soon you and I will be the only ones left of our early meetings." Miss Dock, from her generous heart, writes of war in which she has no faith as a solvent of any human problem. . . . "My feeling for every country is one of love and hope."

God's Chivalry.

A Frenchman writes: "My nurse brought to my notice the very understanding column in your nursing paper headed 'God's Chivalry,' and the picture of the 'Young Guardian of Righteousness.' Both are deserving of my warm admiration and gratitude, which please accept. I have sent the journal to my son, who is serving 'somewhere in France.'"

Horses wounded in France.

Diana writes: "Thank you for address of Blue Cross. A hospital for wounded war animals at the front is work after my own heart, but alas! school girls are not eligible for active service."

REGIONAL NURSING OFFICERS.

Miss H. E. Billington, Regional Nursing Officer, Leeds, 1, informs us that she is entitled to the letters A.R.R.C. (conferred in 1917) after her name. These letters were omitted in the official list of Regional Nursing Officers, issued to us for publication from the Ministry of Health, Whitehall. We advise her, therefore, to communicate with the Secretary of the Civil Nursing Reserve on the matter.

[Also, as this professional publication has been edited by a trained, now Registered, Nurse for half a century, may we express our objection to being addressed as "Dear Sir." No "Dear Sir" is qualified to edit a Nursing Journal.—ED.]

THE "BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING" AND THE "MIDWIFE" SUPPLEMENT FOUNDED 1888,

is the Official Organ of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. The Official Supplement of the Royal British Nurses' Association is incorporated in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. Price, 7s. annually, including postage. Apply, MANAGER, 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

THE PRIZE COMPETITION.

We regret that no Prize Paper of sufficient merit has been received for publication.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR MAY.

Describe the Treatment and Nursing Care in Surgical Goitre.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

THE SECOND EXAMINATION, NO. 2, MARCH, 1940. LIST OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES.

Candidates Examined	...	...	...	117
Passed	...	...	...	104
Percentage of Failures	...	...	...	11.1

That only 13 candidates failed to pass out of 117 is very fair in these days of mental strain, and it is well to note that so many candidates are qualifying in midwifery, with the anxiety of so many mothers-to-be, with husbands at the front and homes to keep going. A good midwife is a boon and a blessing.

BALANCE AGAINST THE BOARD.

The Minister of Health has approved (for the purpose of apportionment in accordance with the Midwives Acts, 1902 and 1918) the balance against the Board of £8,140 14s. 1d. for the year ended December 31st, 1939.

Thus the cost to the State of administering the Midwives Act is considerable. The Registered Nurses pay every penny for administering the Nurses' Registration Act, amounting to upwards of £57,000.

This should spell professional independence if they took a conscientious interest in their own affairs.

MATERNITY HOSPITAL FOR THE WIVES OF OFFICERS.

An influential committee have in hand a really excellent piece of work—the provision of a Maternity Hospital for the wives of officers serving in the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force.

In a communication to the press it is urged that only those closely connected with the Services know how many officers there are of small means.

For their wives a real need exists for a Maternity Hospital. While these officers are serving their country, it would be of immense satisfaction to them to know that their wives, in their time of need, could obtain the highest skill and care in a well-appointed Maternity Hospital out of the danger area.

To carry out this project a representative Council has been formed. It has received the full approval of the political heads of the three Services, while their wives, and the wives of the fighting heads of the Services, are on the council. By the generosity of an anonymous donor a suitable house, rent and rates free, has been secured. It is in beautiful country, accessible from London, and 30 patients can be accommodated.

It is proposed that patients should pay for treatment on a moderate scale and according to their means, but such contributions must be supplemented by the public. There is ample evidence already of the great need for such an institution, and it only requires the wholehearted support of those interested, for which we earnestly ask. Meanwhile plans for the management and supervision of the hospital are well advanced. Rooms have been lent to the council at 60, Portland Place, W.1, as headquarters, where all communications will be received, and the honorary secretary is Miss L. M. Brooks, O.B.E.

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