

The Midwife.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
Head Office,
Wellington, C.1.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am enclosing herewith the sum of seven shillings and should be glad if you would forward me THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for 1941. Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,
E. R. BRIDGES,
Nurse Instructor.

Please address "The Nurse Instructor,"

DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,—We are feeling very deeply for you all at this time, and would like to be able to share more your difficulties. We use THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING in our Post-graduate Course, and find it most useful. Very kind regards.

E. R. BRIDGES.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

"The dear City may Arise in its Glory."

Free Lance writes: "It's no good pretending that everything is rosy-posy—but it is the difficulties to be overcome which strengthens our fibre—and somehow we hope the lessons taught us by adversity will be taken to heart after the war.

My sisters work in the City, and much as we grieve for the destruction of the Guildhall, and our lovely churches, yet the dark, airless rat-holes in which hundreds of young people work daily in the E.C. district gives one hope that more space, light, and beauty may be the fate of the workers when schemes for rebuilding are begun. Tradition has its values, so have light, air, and beauty. The dear City may arise in its glory, and if so a younger generation will benefit."

Shelters from Bombs.

"Working in and out of London at the risk of life, it is time new schemes were provided in many London districts, and an attempt is being made to better accommodation. So far health has received little attention. Crude sanitation, horrible discomfort, disgusting sights and smells—Salford seems to be giving a lead. A shelter was recently opened which provides an isolation block and full surgical equipment. A staff of cleaners is most necessary, and disinfectants more generously used. Visiting nurses and doctors are a necessity. Authorities must hurry up if health is to be preserved."

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THE PRIZE COMPETITION.

We much regret that no Paper of sufficient merit was received for our Prize Competition for January.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR FEBRUARY.

How would you prepare a patient for an operation on the Rectum for Cancer? Describe the post-operative nursing treatment of such a case.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

SECOND EXAMINATIONS, DECEMBER, 1940.

List of Successful Candidates.

A list has been circulated of 209 successful candidates, first entries, after examination; the percentage of failures was 12.9; 17 candidates, re-entries, were successful, and the percentage of failures was 29.2.

Applications from Registered Medical Practitioners for Approval as Lecturer:

(a) The Secretary reported the approval granted to the following lecturers under emergency powers:—

Muriel Brighton, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., Swansea Municipal Maternity Home and Central Midwives Home. [Rule B.36 (m), (n) and (r).]

Anne E. M. Herbert, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. [Deputy to Dr. Muriel Brighton (above).]

Victoria M. Crosse, M.D., D.P.H., M.M.S.A., D.R.C.O.G., Birmingham City Maternity Home. [Rule B.37.]

Lilian Ruth Duffy, M.B., Ch.B., Guildford Queen's District Nursing Association. [Rule B.37.]

(b) The Secretary reported that the following application had been granted:—

G. W. Murray, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Blackpool Municipal Maternity Home. [Rule B.37.]

A DEBT OF GRATITUDE.

Writing to *The Times*, Dr. W. Fletcher Shaw, President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists advocates the value and virtues of midwives. He states:—

"Among those to receive well-deserved public thanks for their devoted work during air raids no mention has been made of the midwives.

"The arrival of a baby is a process which cannot be regulated to suit the convenience of the mother or her attendants, and many cases of childbirth are in progress when the raids commence and others are precipitated by the nervous shock. These patients cannot be moved to shelters and so the midwife is faced with the problem of remaining at her post in considerable danger or seeking safety for herself. Needless to say, the latter alternative is not even considered, although the process of labour may be in the early stages when the midwife can give only moral support and has none of the excitement and absorption of mind which in the later stages obliterate the sense of danger. Even falling shrapnel has not deterred the midwives from answering calls to urgent cases, although it has not yet been possible to furnish them with steel helmets.

To a woman in this time of supreme strain the presence of a highly trained, sympathetic midwife means much; how much more in the dangers and horrors of an aerial bombardment, only those who have endured it can tell. The work of these midwives is known, however, to those who receive their reports, the superiors of midwives, and the doctors, who not infrequently share these dangers and anxieties, and it is they who have asked me to voice their appreciation of the gallant way the midwives have carried out their duties and to remind the nation of the debt of gratitude it owes them."

'FLU VACCINE.

A million doses of a newly-discovered vaccine against influenza are being prepared by the Rockefeller Foundation's International Health Division for shipment to England if required as protection against possible epidemics.

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