

THE MIDWIFE.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

Arrangements are being made for the examinations for pupil-midwives to be held in November and December, 1942, as follows:—

(1) FIRST EXAMINATION.

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Written | November 11th. |
| Oral and practical— | |
| November 18th ... | Birmingham, Leeds. |
| November 19th ... | Croydon. |
| November 20th ... | London, Bristol, Manchester, Sheffield, Liverpool, Newcastle-on-Tyne. |

The examination will be held at other centres, if necessary.

(2) SECOND EXAMINATION.

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| December 9th ... | Birmingham, Leeds. |
| December 11th ... | London, Bristol. |
| December 12th ... | Liverpool. |

Arrangements are subject to alteration at short notice.

S. FARRER BROWN,
Secretary.

LIST OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES.

The following list of successful candidates in the Second Examination has been announced:—

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------|
| ENTERED | First entries | 333 |
| | Re-entries | 52 |
| | | 385 |
| PASSED | First entries | 280 |
| | Re-entries | 39 |
| | | 319 |
| PERCENTAGE OF FAILURES | First entries | 15.9 |
| | Re-entries | 25.0 |
| | All candidates | 17.1 |

L. FARRER BROWN, *Secretary.*

It is to be regretted that there have been 66 failures as the shortage of midwives is acute.

PUPIL MIDWIVES.

There has been some misunderstanding about the position of pupil midwives under the arrangements for women students recently announced by the Minister of Labour and National Service.

Pupil midwives, whether or not they are trained nurses, will be allowed to take their training at any age permitted by the Rules of the Central Midwives Board. The restrictions as to age which have been imposed on certain other women students do not apply to pupil midwives any more than to student nurses.

THE "BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING" AND THE "MIDWIFE" SUPPLEMENT, FOUNDED 1888, is the Official Organ of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. Price 7s. annually, including postage. Apply, MANAGER, 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

THE PRIZE COMPETITION.

We much regret no paper of sufficient merit has been received for publication.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR NOVEMBER.

Describe emergency treatment of injuries of muscles, bones and joints.

nurse in U.S.A., and in some of the Dominions. In plain English, the demand for two standards of registered nurses means that the supply of students for high standards of nursing efficiency has failed and in our opinion, it is a grievous admission. The result is inevitable. The efficiently trained Registered Nurse will, in time, cease to exist.

In Great Britain lack of foresight and organisation upon the part of our nurse training schools has resulted in a serious shortage of student nurses, prepared to spend from three to four years in qualifying as Registered Nurses—and such a shortage and subterfuge such as the "Assistant Nurse" need never have occurred if the managers of nursing schools, instructed by their Matrons, had seriously considered the reasons for failure. But in this country it is not too late to prevent the de-grading of nursing education and efficiency, and we call upon those responsible for the organisation of nursing education to do so on a national basis, and prove their capacity for nursing the sick of all grades which they profess to do.

Such organisation based on sound finance is possible. We squander millions on puerile and self-interested schemes, and if the national health is not realised as of vital importance by those empowered to protect it, we must demand that politicians shall refer the organisation of the health and happiness of our people to a body of practical experts, and see that safe standards are enforced.

No de-grading in our national standards of nursing until we are prepared to own we are a fool people—which we decline to admit. We still believe Britons are good, sound stuff. Let us prove it in this particular.—Yours,

LATE MEMBER, G.N.C.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

"Home Helps We will Become."

A would-be Home Help writes: "I have taken the trouble to wade through the pamphlet issued by the Royal College of Nursing on the ubiquitous 'Assistant Nurse.' It is indeed food for babes, but I am not for claiming association with any of the 'controlled' classes, Registered Nurse, Practising Nurse, or Assistant Nurse. But when I came to the end of this absurd harangue, tucked away in small print under the heading Appendix, I came upon 'Home Helps.' Glory be!

"Should Parliament think fit to break faith with 100,000 Registered Nurses who have spent a *million of money* in maintaining the Nursing Law of the Land, I gather they may still maintain their freedom of action as Home Helps! The duties of this Cinderella are not classified as nursing duties, but she is free to help her fellow-men and not be run into 'quad' for accepting a bawbee!

"Imagine the joy of the National Council of Women! A whole regiment of women police (their special pets) will be required to prevent Registered Nurses, Practising Nurses and Assistant Nurses treading on one another's toes, to say nothing of coming to blows.

"As for the General Nursing Councils, accorded the honour of picking the chestnuts out of the fire for Lord Horder's Reconstruction Committee, if only they concentrate on the 'Home Helps' they may retain their sanity and all may yet be well. The public also may retain the liberty of action it has enjoyed since Runnymede *in its own house!* We Registered Nurses sit on velvet. 'Home Helps' we will become. No coercion, no control, and just leave all professional nurses to their ignoble fate."

[The writer of the above letter is not the frivolous person she might appear. With many other Registered Nurses she realises that the threat to the liberty of the subject and the proposed breach of faith with our profession by Lord Horder's Committee, foreshadows tyrannical suppression of personal liberty for nurse and patient alike.—Ed.]

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