

from 'control' and inclusion in a closed profession by way of Home Helps is blocked. This useful domestic worker must 'be organised' and centrally controlled, and only used where a State Registered Nurse, a State Certified Midwife, or an Enrolled Assistant Nurse is responsible for the nursing duties. What could be more absurd? The British public will not sit down under this tyrannical interference with its personal liberty, and should the present Minister of Health or any other person attempt to enforce it we shall, without loss of time, organise a voluble society to resist it."

[The Ministry of Health has just issued a leaflet to Welfare Authorities in which the Home Help is recognised as a domestic worker to help in the house of poor lying-in women, a most useful worker, with no authority to interfere in nursing, the work of midwives or district nurses. So far so good.—ED.]

Roman Catholic Nurse writes: "Surely in these days it is out of date to discriminate against applicants for matronships and other posts in hospitals because they are Roman Catholics. Subscriptions from R.C.s are accepted for the upkeep of hospitals. I hold high professional qualifications but have several times been turned down because of my religion. Can nothing be done? Jews take a very prominent part in hospital work and, of course, the majority of foreign refugees, hundreds of whom are being trained in English hospitals are Catholics or belong to other religious sects not Church of England; presumably they will be excluded from the higher posts should they aspire to them."

[This question is not without difficulties, even in these days of religious toleration. We shall be pleased to publish a free expression of opinion on the matter.—ED.]

Powers and Policy of the General Nursing Council.

R.N.S. writes: "I read last month's Editorial 'The Powers and Policy of the General Nursing Council,' and the report of the Conference of instructed delegates on the question of the proposal to set up a legal register of semi-trained nurses. What I do not understand is the *volte-face* of the nurse members of the G.N.C., the College of Nursing, the Association of Hospital Matrons, and others—who apparently are now willing to promote Rolls of semi-trained nurses, and thus tear down standards, none too high, when compared with the Dominions and U.S.A., which it has taken half a century to build up."

[We warned the profession that the result of the adoption of the *Lancet* Commission policy of removing the safeguard of the One Portal to the Register, would inevitably make depreciation of nursing standards possible. The policy was tenaciously pursued for five years by the late assistant editor of the *Lancet*, Dr. M. H. Kettle, as a representative of the Ministry of Health on the General Nursing Council. This unwise policy does not, however, absolve the General Nursing Council from its duty to the 100,000 nurses who have conformed to its standards of training and examination and paid for their legal status.—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. 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 JANUARY, 1943.

Describe the Value of Industrial Nursing.

THE MIDWIFE.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

First Examination Questions, November 11th, 1942.

1. What maternal organs may be injured during labour? How may such injuries occur and how would you recognise them?

2. You are unable to locate the head of a foetus at the 36th week of pregnancy. What are the possible reasons for this?

Briefly indicate the appropriate treatment of any two of these conditions.

3. In the absence of a pelvic examination, what would lead you to believe that a patient is in the second stage of labour?

What are the common causes of delay in this stage?

4. What are the troubles that can arise in connection with the breast in the first month after delivery?

How are they treated?

5. What are the causes of prolonged cyanosis in a newborn infant?

How have you seen any one of these conditions treated?

6. Discuss the various forms of artificial feeding.

For what reasons should a mother not breast-feed her baby?

SUPPLY OF TRANSFUSION FLUIDS FOR MATERNITY CASES.

The Ministry of Health has under consideration the method of supply of transfusion services in certain obstetric emergencies. Before the war many welfare authorities had made arrangements for supplying their maternity units with transfusion fluids and the apparatus for administration, and some had made arrangements for flying squads, one of whose most important functions was to enable transfusions to be given where necessary. No doubt welfare authorities are doing all in their power to conduct such arrangements and to extend them to the Emergency Maternity Units for women from evacuation areas. Most of the pre-war arrangements for blood donor panels and transfusion service generally have been co-ordinated under the Emergency Blood Transfusion Services. It is desirable therefore to take steps to secure that the resources of these services should be available for maternity cases, in so far as stocks of transfusion fluids and the necessary equipment can be spared from the primary purpose of the Service, which is designed for war casualties.

It is therefore suggested that the Council's Officers should communicate with the Regional Blood Transfusion Officer, or the Director of the nearest London Blood Supply Depot in the London sectors.

The Regional Blood Transfusion Officer or other appropriate officer will be able to give the list of names and addresses of depots in the Region from which supplies and apparatus may be obtained.

No charge will be made for transfusion fluid given and apparatus lent. A record of the use being made of transfusions in obstetric emergencies would be of interest and value to all concerned.

LAST WORDS, 1942.

A man shulde not bowe for any fortune or trouble of mynde. . . . To tollerate those thinges whiche do seme bytter or grevous (wherof there be many in the lyfe of man and in fortune) betokeneth a good courage, and also moche constauce.—SIR THOMAS ELYOT (1533).

Without labour we are not on the way to rest, and without fighting, we come not to victory.

De Imit Christi, III, 19.