

**"Walled-Up."**

A Member B.C.N. writes: "I am deeply interested in the 'Assistant Nurse' question—the controversy on the subject will throw light on dark corners, and let us hope effect reforms for the sad cases of chronic sickness who are apparently at present at the mercy of ignorant persons and their untrained attendants.

"Miss Dorothy E. Tinton's letter should be widely read and taken to heart. One of the most cruel actions of the 'harpies' is to refuse to give a drink of water to parched old people for fear of their wetting the bed and making work!

"The Special Committee of our British College is on the track of a terrible national scandal, and I do hope will continue its good work, not only in preventing the Registration by the State of semi-trained nurses, but in demanding protection for helpless old sick people, who are apparently walled-up out of sight. If only Hitler would drop his bombs on some of the institutions for the chronic sick (if empty) what a benefactor he might become!"

**Snobbery a Sign of Weakness.**

"An English Sister" writes: "A Hospital Matron's" letter in the last issue calls for approval, and makes one think we really are a nation of snobs—but it has been emphasised by the present personnel of the Ministry of Health, and considering it is at present under Scottish control, this is odd, as the Scottish people suffer far less than the English from this weakness. Their habits and customs are much more simple than ours, with far less class distinction.

This eruption of badges in all directions in this time of terrible realities is a sign of great weakness, and only panders to ignoble instincts instead of elevating one's standard of life."

**The Cost of Status.**

S.R.N. writes: "I followed advice and studied the Balance Sheet of the General Nursing Council for 1941. It an amazing report. One wonders where all the money comes from, and if the upkeep of the Nursing Profession is worth the annual expenditure of £59,594 10s. 7d., considering how little the majority of Registered Nurses know or care about it. As we have built ourselves a lordly pleasure house, it would be interesting to know how many of the hundred thousand Registered Nurses know of its existence or have ever been inside it.

"Now, of course, is not the time to throw a party, but why should it not be announced that we might be conducted round its interesting departments at convenient times, and be shown what we get for our money?"

[Quite a good idea. One progressive Sister Tutor recently proposed that Registered Nurses might be permitted to hold meetings "in their own headquarters." Why not? We have not yet forgotten overhearing a Medical Man at the opening of the "lordly pleasure house" stating indignantly "These nurses think the place belongs to them." "And so it does" we chipped in.—EDITOR.]

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**THE PRIZE COMPETITION.**

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

**PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR APRIL.**

What are the symptoms of Acute Cerebro-spinal Meningitis? How might such a case be treated?

**THE MIDWIFE.****THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.  
FIRST EXAMINATION.**

February 11th, 1942.

Candidates should attempt to answer all the questions.

- Describe the supports of the uterus and the vagina. How may these supports become injured during labour?
- Give a description of the ante-natal care of a woman from the 28th week of pregnancy until term.
- What steps would you take to prevent the tearing of the perineum during labour?  
Under what conditions may extensive tears occur?
- What urinary complications may occur in the first two weeks after delivery?  
In each case indicate the appropriate treatment.
- What precautions should be taken before, during and after birth with a view to preventing an infant developing ophthalmia neonatorum?  
What are your duties if such a complication should arise?
- For what purposes is each of the following used in midwifery practice:—
  - Castor oil.
  - Chloral hydrate.
  - Dettol.
  - Ergometrine.
  - Lysol.
  - Potassium bromide.
  - Silver nitrate.
 How is each used?  
In what strength or dosage should each be used?

**FIRST EXAMINATION.****LIST OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES.**

First entries	...	...	...	...	482
Passed	...	...	...	...	363
Percentage of failures	...	...	...	...	24.7
Re-entries	...	...	...	...	120
Passed	...	...	...	...	77
Percentage of failures	...	...	...	...	35.8

**THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND MIDWIVES.**

The Minister of Health is concerned to learn that some practising midwives are voluntarily taking up other appointments in which their special training and experience would be wasted.

In order that midwives may be fully aware of the importance which the Minister attaches to their work he has sent the following message to the College of Midwives:—

**To Midwives:**

The Minister of Health is grateful to you all in the Midwifery Service for the continued excellent work you are doing in Maternity Hospitals and Homes and in the homes of the people.

He appreciates fully the way you have carried out arduous and responsible work on which so much depends, often under difficult and dangerous conditions. He is confident this high standard of devotion to duty will never be relaxed.

**BABIES MUST BE CARED FOR.**

Women factory workers and housewives have been interviewing high officials of the Ministries of Health, Labour and the Board of Education. They want to know why, in view of the urgent need for women's labour, there are so few war nurseries to look after their children. Babies are priceless, we need every one. Ministers must get a move on.

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