

## CORRESPONDENCE.

(Notes, Queries, &amp;c.)

\* \* \* 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 CORRESPONDENTS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

## THE BATTLE OF THE BADGE.

Sir,—If there be one thing more than another that shows the haze that still surrounds the question of our badge, it is surely the patent fact that the Prize Essay leaves the matter almost as nebulous as it found it, being rather an apology than a defence, and as applicable (to my mind) to a bonnet as a badge. The opening sentence, "Motives, instincts and feelings are hardly reasons, and yet possibly they all play a larger part in influencing our desire for or against a bonnet, than reasons in the strictest meaning of the word"; and the concluding quotation—

"We have no other but a woman's reason:  
We think it so (nice?), because we think it so"—

fits in with our choice of that treasured article of our attire.

The badge question rests, like the B.N.A. itself, upon principles or nothing. We have a motto (which in heraldry implies a crest or badge), "Steadfast and True." Let us take the first word first—"Steadfast." To what? Our principles? Are we ashamed of those principles? Do they want to be apologised for? Every Member of the B.N.A. accepts them with other good things of her membership, and she is bound in honour to uphold them. In the present position of the B.N.A. it is the Members who confer honour upon and are making its history. If some of them ask for a mark of distinction (a badge) as the outward and visible sign of the great principles they are pledged to carry out, are they altogether wrong?

Now as to the second word of our motto—"True." To whom? Our leaders and our cause. We are assailed, reviled, despised. How great the need then for the Members of the B.N.A. to hold loyally together! There is a great fight to be fought, a great victory to be won. Remember we have only declared, not established, our principles, and the Charter of our professional liberty has yet to be got. Every Member of the B.N.A. should be proud to share in the noble strife, help to plant our victorious colours (principle) upon the rampart of our hopes, and keep our professional honour from being trampled in the dust, under the feet of bitter and remorseless foes. No such dishonour can befall us if we are "true" to our leaders and each other. Are those who ask for a token of such fidelity so very silly? I leave the answer to my sister Members of the B.N.A. The Editorial objection, that members of the British Medical Association have no badge, hardly fits our case. Medicine is a profession; Nursing is not. When it is, we shall have earned our distinction, and require no other badge.

There were rumours that the B.N.A. was to have a seal, and on a previous occasion I suggested that the badge should be identical with it and bear the same motto—the former representing our principles collectively, the latter individually. I should further suggest that the badge be made up into a small brooch, that could be used to fasten our collars or ties, and would not be the least in our way when we were on duty. The tartans of the Highland clans are fastened with brooches, so there is a historic precedent for a brooch. I am sure we could any of us afford a small silver brooch, with our device in blue enamel or something of that kind, and I am equally sure it would be regarded by the Members of the B.N.A. as one of their most treasured possessions, and be a bond of union amongst them all the world over.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

JUSTITIA.

## REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

\* \* \* We understand that the British Nurses' Association is now organising a system of Registration. All information on the subject can probably be obtained by writing to the Secretary, at the offices of the Association, 8, Oxford Circus Avenue, Oxford Street, London, W., always enclosing a stamped and addressed envelope for a reply.

Miss Harris:—Please note these columns for the next few weeks.

Parent.—In an early issue we hope to supply you with the information you require, as we are now compiling a list of such places we consider most suitable.

Nurse M.—You can obtain the Sanitary Cuspidores at Messrs. Seabury and Johnson, 46, Jewin Street, E.C.

Nancie.—Kindly note reply to Miss Harris.

Miss Simcon.—We will write you shortly.

Dr. MacAlister.—Your request shall be complied with.

NEVER refuse to receive an apology. You may not revive friendship; but courtesy will require, when an apology is offered, that you accept it.

WE should behave towards our enemies as the physician towards the sick man he is trying to cure; he loves the person while he abhors the disease.

OUR success or failure in life depends on nothing so much as confidence we place in our ability to accomplish.

THERE is no greater weakness than that of letting our happiness depend too much upon the opinions of others.

THE firmest friendships have been formed in mutual adversity, as iron is most strongly welded by the fiercest fire.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)