



Letters to the Editor.

NOTES, QUERIES, &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 our correspondents.

OUR GUINEA PRIZE.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—I thank you very much for your cheque for the Guinea Puzzle Prize last month.

I was agreeably surprised to find myself the winner, especially as one of our staff was fortunate enough to win the "Holiday Prize."

Again thanking you, and wishing every success to the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING,

I am, dear Madam,

Yours sincerely,

ANNIE E. ROSSITER.

Kent Nursing Institution,
Crescent Road, Tunbridge Wells.

NURSING PROGRESS IN AUSTRALIA.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—The splendid report issued by the Victorian Trained Nurses' Association shows what can be done by combined effort, and it also points the moral that what is above all things necessary to the advancement and organisation of our profession is the regulation of the courses of training given by nurse training-schools, so that these may be uniform, and the certificate of a trained nurse may have a definite value. The lesson of the day is plain to read on all sides. It is that in any undertaking and in any profession, organisation and combination are necessary to success. The medical schools are required to give definite courses of instruction to students. Then why should the nursing schools in Great Britain still remain a law to themselves, resenting all efforts at consolidation and uniformity? Surely if the schools refuse to move, in the public interest they should be coerced, for the education of nurses is a matter which concerns not only, or even principally, the schools themselves; these hold their trust for the benefit of the sick public. If a nursing school is efficient it turns out efficient nurses for the sick, but surely there should be some central controlling authority which should decide whether a given school is efficiently organised, and therefore entitled to recognition. It does not appear to be right that each school should be allowed to decide the question of its own merits, and to stand still and so retard progress, or to move ahead, as seems good to it.

Apparently this point is appreciated in Australia, for both in New South Wales and in Victoria I notice that the Trained Nurses' Associations recognise as a primary duty the publication of a list of the institutions whose certificates they will accept as qualifying candidates for registration, and already I notice not only that many of the hospitals in these colonies appreciate the efforts of these Associations to define a standard of nursing education, but also that, in several instances, the Association has had a definite in-

fluence in raising the standard in institutions whose curriculum is not in conformity with modern ideals. This is most encouraging.

It is also satisfactory to note that, in Victoria, a Conjoint Board of Medical Men and Superintendents of Nursing has been appointed to examine candidates who desire recognition as qualified nurses. This is as it should be. Shall we present-day nurses live to see such a forward step taken in this country? One hopes against hope, but I am inclined to think that some of us will "keep on faithful till the curtain drops" before it is achieved.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

NIL DESPERANDUM.

AN UNRECOGNISED DANGER.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—In reply to the letter of "A Logical Woman," I should like to point out that St. Thomas's Hospital recognised the danger of infection from scrubbers' dresses some time ago, and provided them with print dresses and caps, which are also washed at the expense of the hospital.

On arrival at the hospital, immediately after reporting themselves the women go down to the "scrubbers' room" and there take off their own dresses and put on the uniform, changing back into their own clothes last thing before leaving.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

LILY E. HALL.

Fir Tree House,
Penshurst, Kent.

A VALID REASON REQUIRED.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—I shall be obliged if you or some of your experienced readers will discuss the question of the status of the different grades of nurses in training-schools, especially the valid reasons for the separation when off duty of Sisters, Staffs, and Pros. In this hospital, where I have a former friend as Sister, we are forbidden by the rules to associate or go out together, as I am a mere Pro. Presumably there is a reason for what appears a somewhat arbitrary regulation. Please give it me.

Yours,

FIRST YEAR'S PROBATIONER.

[We hope to deal with this question in our next issue.—ED.]

TAINED, FERMENTED, AND DRUGGED MILK.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—I have to thank you very much for publishing my remarks in full upon this most important subject.

Once a cow is milked, the animal-warm milk should be quickly aerated in pure air (available at all farms) by dropping in thin streams through perforations at the bottom of a suitable receptacle into another pail (when so poured out of the milking pail), in the same dissected fashion, as it passes generally through foul air, from the teats into the milking-pail; the oxygen (about 23 per cent.) that prevails in all pure air will thus get at each minute particle of the milk, and so expel the impurities, bred by bad feeding or born by absorption (through contact with foul air—of unclean natal sur-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)