



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 beg to thank you for the Journal received last evening.

The announcement that I was the fortunate winner of the "Puzzle Prize" was a great surprise to me. I have been a reader of your valuable paper for the past fifteen months, and have much enjoyed its most instructive and interesting articles.

With best wishes for its success,

I am, Madam,

Yours faithfully,

M. SRINGER.

The Royal Soldiers' Daughters' Home,
Hampstead, N.W., August 6th, 1905.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

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

DEAR MADAM,—On reading the decision of the Select Committee *re* State Registration in the daily papers, my first feeling was to send you a telegram of congratulation, but I was kept back by the thought that it was too serious a question to be dealt with hurriedly, and that a telegram would express neither my thoughts nor my feelings.

To my mind, it is not a moment of vulgar triumph; still, it would not be human not to feel a thrill of joy, a moment of satisfaction at having conquered amidst such opposition. Togo must have felt it (what a noble modest hero) when he annihilated the Russian fleet, but before the battle his words to his navy were:—"The destiny of the Empire depends on your efforts. Do your best." Again, was it not Napoleon who said, "There is only one thing more terrible than victory . . . and that is defeat." What struggles, what battles, what divisions, what friendships lost and broken, what hatred, malice, and uncharitableness all this has cost! But what a gold letter day in the history of modern nursing! What a splendid turning in a long lane after eighteen years' work! And does this not contain an elevating, strengthening lesson to us all? To me it has meant:

"Have the courage of your opinions. Fight for what you think is right. *Be true to yourself.* Never despair, and, above all, scorn to sway with one party or the other, and sacrifice a cause for self-interested motives." Last but not least, "Give honour to whom honour is due."

With sincere and heartfelt admiration I congratulate you.

Yours faithfully,

E. R. WORTABET.

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

DEAR MADAM,—To all those who have worked so strenuously for the State Registration of Trained Nurses the Report of the Select Committee is a vast encouragement. That our cause was right and just we all knew, but in these times it does not always work properly, for so frequently it happens that it is *might* and not right that wins. Now that we have been able to convince the Select Committee we must return to the fray with renewed hope and courage, never resting until State Registration is an accomplished fact.

The honour of this victory is to you, Madam, and your staff, for without the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and its clever Editor, we nurses would be sinking into the hands of the laymen who are so eager to manage us and our affairs, from purely philanthropic motives of course.

The thanks of the whole profession are due to you for raising the flag of the nurses' independence and so bravely keeping it afloat against such enormous odds, and I hope that every trained nurse in the kingdom will rally round the standard, sustaining the fight until the victory is complete.

I am, yours faithfully,

M. BURR.

The Chestnuts, Ebford, Topsham, S. Devon.

A NURSES' JOURNAL FOR NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Many congratulations to "our only paper" upon the result of the inquiry of the Select Committee on Registration of Nurses. I hope my fellow-nurses realise that THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is the only independent organ in this country which has consistently fought for our legal status. We owe you through it more than we are ever likely to pay. Let us prove our appreciation and gratitude by making our Journal known far and wide, so that we may each do something to help to carry the Registration Bill through Parliament when the time comes. Our cause, which is a righteous one, only requires to be understood by members of the public and the Legislature for it to gain the necessary support.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours very truly,

MIRIAM BRIDGES.

12, Sussex Square, Brighton.

A HOLIDAY DREAM.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Fate has been kind to me this summer. I spend many hours out of many days in a beautiful garden on a high hill, at my feet a panorama of three counties spread out like a map. It is the sort of garden in which to do little and to dream of many things.

One of my dreams was that instead of the nursing world being divided into factions more or less hostile, all nurses were at one in wishing for reform, and more especially the heads of the nursing profession. It is a well-known fact that if the head of a hospital is interested in the progress of her profession her underlings mostly are too, which reminds me of a tale I heard the other day. A clerk in a remote country parish was asked if his vicar were not very "Ritualistic."

"He do antic a bit," was the reply; "but there, we

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