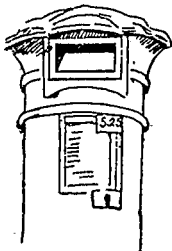


Letters to the Editor.

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.

THE R.B.N.A. RESIGNATIONS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Now that Miss Forrest has resigned her membership of the R.B.N.A. the last link seems severed with the band of enthusiastic and progressive women who founded the Association in 1887, and no doubt many other members will follow her example. Indeed, the fact brought out by Dr. Bedford Fenwick at the Annual Meeting that only about 760 nurses pay their subscriptions out of what was once a membership of 3,000 is the most convincing evidence of the unpopularity of the policy of Sir James Crichton Browne and his henchmen, Drs. Thorne and Berkeley. One has but to compare the names and composition of the Executive Committee to-day with what it was in the past to realise that the R.B.N.A. has run down. At present not one representative Matron of a nurse training school of any standing has a seat on it, and an Executive composed of Matrons of private nursing institutions, orphan homes, and cottage hospitals, and nurses in the employment of the medical officers, as are the Chartered Nurses, cannot, and will not command respect. If the R.B.N.A. had not been bolstered up this year by the influx of Colonial nurses from South Australia, the Treasurer would have had a still sorer tale to tell. No one who is not prepared to back the medical managers against the interests of the nursing profession at large need join the R.B.N.A., unless they wish to be publicly insulted as the minority have been at recent meetings, if they dare to oppose the unprincipled methods of business. Though I have been a Life Member since 1890 I have resigned with relief.

I am,

Yours faithfully,
G. B. MACVITIE.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE INSTITUTE FOR NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—The attention of the Committee of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses has been drawn to a statement in the press that nourishment was refused by a Queen's Nurse to an illegitimate child on account of the stigma attached to its birth. The Committee wish to contradict the impression erroneously conveyed that there is any regulation in the rules of the Queen's Institute which could lead to such an action on the part of a Queen's Nurse. Queen's Nurses are allowed to give relief and

nourishment only in time of emergency and are required to report any such cases at once to the proper authority, systematic relief-giving not being part of their duty. The services of the Queen's Nurses and other benefits available through them are given to patients freely according to the needs of sickness apart from the consideration of any other circumstances.

I am, your faithfully,

A. MARTIN LEAKE, Secretary.

120, Victoria St, London, S.W.

Comments and Replies.

Sister A.—We think that more attention should be given to instructing probationers in the art of bed-making, for its seems to be a weak point with many nurses. To mention only one point as illustration. In arranging as a draw-sheet an ordinary sheet folded once down the middle, which is usually the form adopted in private houses, nurses will constantly put the double margin lowest and the two free edges under the patient's back near the pillow, where they inevitably become rucked up and uncomfortable.

Maternity Nurse.—No pins whatever should be used in dressing an infant beyond three safety pins, of which the points should be properly protected. The position of these is one to pin the napkin used, and the others to keep in place the turned up ends of the flannel. A needle and cotton should be used in every other instance.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

Those nurses who are working on behalf of the above Society, and are endeavouring to spread knowledge as to its aims, may be glad to know that they can now obtain a Memorandum, giving briefly the reasons why Registration is necessary, from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Price 6d. for 20 copies.

All those desirous of helping on the important movement of this Society to obtain a Bill providing for the Legal Registration of Trained Nurses will find an application form on advt. page vi., or can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Editor will at all times be pleased to consider articles of a suitable nature for insertion in this Journal—those on practical nursing are specially invited. The Editor will also be pleased to receive paragraphs, such as items of nursing news, results of nurses' examinations, new appointments, reports of hospital functions, also letters on questions of interest to nurses, and newspapers marked with reports of matters of professional interest.

Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page viii.

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