

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

*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.*

## IMPRESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I, through the medium of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, be permitted to join my sincere thanks to the many you must have received, to all who made it possible for us to have such an interesting and inspiring Conference, as the one we have just enjoyed at Birmingham?

I think no one who has not had the privilege of taking part in such a conference, can quite realize *how* inspiring it was. I have not been able to attend any of the Nurses' Conferences since the International one held in London in 1909, and I was particularly impressed with the way in which the need for State Registration of Nurses is becoming understood and appreciated by those outside the nursing profession. It was a joy to listen to the most sympathetic and understanding remarks made on the subject by the Lord Mayor and I think that is a great encouragement to all of us who are longing for the day when our Registration Bill becomes law.

I think those present at the Conference who had not, up to that time, given as much thought as they should to the matter, must have been deeply impressed with the variety of ways in which the various speakers showed how urgently State Registration is needed in all the branches of the profession. The particularly kind and hospitable way in which we were received at Birmingham was, I am sure, most sincerely appreciated by us all.

Believe me, dear Madam,

Yours truly,

F. G. STABB.

132, Harley St., W.

## EXPRESS TRAINING.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I, as a Matron, speak a word of warning? At this country hospital it is almost impossible to get well educated probationers. All the possible young women are now assuming full nurses' uniform, with the addition of a large red cross, and being called and treated as *trained* nurses by medical men and society people connected with the British Red Cross Society. "They know all they need to know," a military medico said quite recently. Meanwhile our patients suffer, and will do so more in the future if all this "express training" is not discouraged.

Yours truly,

TIRED OF MAKING BRICKS WITHOUT STRAW.  
East Anglia.

## IS IT JUST?

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Will you allow me to ask, through the columns of our valuable Nursing paper, whether other nurses feel as I do about the ladies of the Red Cross Society coming into the wards for an hour or so during the day? I am a second year probationer, and while I scrub the bath, &c., these ladies are taken round by Sister (who I'm sure doesn't like it), and taught bandaging and small dressings. I object. Am I unpatriotic and narrow? I don't mean to be. But is it fair that these women should get the cream of the work, while we, who intend to give our whole lives to the work of nursing the sick, should lose the experience so necessary.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours truly,

K. S.

[This letter opens up a very wide question, and one which may have far reaching results in still further decreasing the supply of young women available for thorough training. This is not the first complaint we have received as to the justice of the system. Others may wish to express an opinion on the question. We hope they will do so.—Ed.]

## REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Staff Nurse, London.*—For the effects of drugs consult "Materia Medica for Nurses," by Miss L. L. Dock, published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, 24, Bedford Street, Strand, W.C. The first evidences of overdosing in giving salicylic acid are buzzing and roaring in the ears. Increased doses cause severe headache, perspiration, deafness, and various disturbances of vision.

*Maternity Nurse, Birmingham.*—Dr. Ralph Vincent teaches that so-called epidemic diarrhoea is a filth disease, arising from the consumption of filth, *i.e.*, contaminated milk. This is the reason that breast-fed babies are practically immune, when hand-fed babies are dying in hot weather by the hundred, which demonstrates the fact that the "epidemic" attacks numbers of babies at the same time because they are being fed on impure milk, not because the disease is infectious.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

July 11th.—What is the cause of tuberculosis? What organs and tissues may be attacked in this disease? Give a brief description of the treatment and management of any two forms of tuberculosis.

July 18th.—Define hæmorrhage, shock, coma, asphyxia, syncope.

July 25th.—How may the course of pregnancy be affected when the mother suffers from syphilis? What are the effects upon the child, supposing it is born alive, when the mother suffers from (a) syphilis or (b) gonorrhoea?

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