

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.

A "DREADFUL TRAGEDY OF ERRORS."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Thank you so much for dealing with the case of neglect at the Sydney Hall Fortress Hospital at Weymouth. Many of my fellow townswomen feel very strongly about it. I was specially glad you commented on the fact that the "hard swearing" at the inquest (for it amounted to that) was calculated to defame the dead. I consider that is a very abominable aspect of the case, and those whose word the jury doubted should be prosecuted for perjury, but no doubt they will be permitted to continue to victimise the sick. I note you laid stress on the evidence of William Micking, sergeant Royal Scots, in which he spoke of the "clean sheet" of the deceased. May I be permitted to draw the attention of the readers of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING to the following statement made on oath by Dr. F. H. Rodier Heath of Weymouth, who made the *post mortem* on poor Gribbin's body? He said "there was no smell of alcohol in the deceased's stomach. The contents had been preserved if an analysis were required," conclusive proof that the poor fellow was sober when admitted to the hospital, and that death was due to shock following his terrible injuries.

Whoever is responsible for the standard of nursing in the Sydney Hall Military Hospital is greatly to blame for permitting an uncertificated nurse to be in charge alone at night, especially where there is no resident medical officer, and it is high time our brave men should be protected from such risks. Along this coast many voluntary hospitals for soldiers have been run by untrained or semi-trained women. It is time they were all closed or thoroughly trained resident matrons appointed.

Many very insufficiently trained women are also attached to private nursing institutions near by, but no one knows or appears to care whether they are trained or not. My daughter, who is a well trained nurse, brought your splendid journal to my notice, and we are all staunch registrationists—more so than ever after this sad death.

Yours truly,

A WEYMOUTH WOMAN.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—We always sing "God Save the King" the same as when you came to see us. Now we sing the new verse we learnt from THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, to remind us of our soldier friends.

WILLIE WILSON.

Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Gullane, N.B.

[We once spent a few very happy days at Muir-

field House, amongst the dear little children convalescing there, and sang with them many fine songs with the help of the gramophone. We hope Nesta Blennerhassett's beautiful additional verse to the National Anthem, which we published last week, will be sung far and wide as long as war lasts.—ED.]

ALL PORTS IN A STORM.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—I read the other day that Dr. Edmund Cartwright, "inventor of the power loom," relates in his "Memoirs" that he used yeast as a cure for typhus, with remarkable success. He gave his patients two or three large spoonfuls of yeast every two or three hours in warm water; they were cured in less than a week.

I have seen yeast used in tabloid form for boils but never for anything else except cooking. It cured the boils after several other remedies had failed.

If yeast is obtainable in Serbia it would be worth trying. It is not expensive, although German yeast, which by the way comes from Holland, has gone up 25 per cent. since the War began.

Yours faithfully,

MARY HARVEY.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Trained Nurse, London.—We should advise you to apply to the Secretary, Serbian Relief Fund, 55, Berners Street, W. The Fund has just completed one unit; but Serbia is in urgent need of nurses, and doubtless others will be formed. Miss Macqueen, formerly Superintendent for England Q.V.J.I., and a member of the Committee, is assisting in the selection of nurses.

Supervision of Midwives.—The Central Midwives Board has made a definite recommendation to the Privy Council, by which body its rules must be approved, that the term of training should extend over a period of six months. It now awaits the approval of the recommendation, which is one which will be endorsed, practically without exception, by those who are responsible for the training of midwives as a step in the right direction.

Mrs. P. James, Birmingham.—The registration of the birth of a child on any ship carrying passengers to or from any port in the United Kingdom must be recorded by the Master, who must subsequently make a return to the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen; or to the Superintendent or Chief Officer of Customs at a port in a British Possession. A certified copy of the entry made by the Master is sent in due course to Somerset House. No further registration is necessary.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

April 10th.—Describe the various digestive juices and their action.

April 17th.—Describe the condition of urine in Cystitis, Bright's Disease, Hydro-nephrosis, Rheumatism, and Diabetes.

April 24th.—Describe the various kinds of fractures, and their complications.

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