

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.

THE TRAINED NURSES' ECONOMIC LEAGUE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Thank you for your letter and for your article relating to the formation of a League of Nurses, to consider economic conditions of nursing.

There are, I am quite sure, numbers of nurses who would welcome the opportunity of War service, but are unable to make monetary sacrifices. My own co-operative staff is small; but, out of the number, I daresay many would join the League. Personally, I am convinced that the only people who can improve and protect the status of the nursing profession are the nurses themselves; and I shall welcome the formation of a League to that end with the greatest pleasure, and will gladly do all I can to help. If you will kindly forward copies of the form regarding the League, I will gladly distribute them.

Yours sincerely,

C. A. LITTLE.

Hull Association of Trained Nurses,
88, Spring Bank.

[We hope many Superintendents of Private Nursing Institutions and Co-operations will support this movement towards just economic conditions for certificated nurses.—ED.]

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am so pleased you are shewing us a way of bringing before the War Office how impossible it is for Private Nurses to give up their work and devote their skill and attention to nursing our wounded soldiers at a loss of half their income. For five months I have worked at £1 1s. a week and then found the work so hard that I was forced to take a month's holiday. This made me realise that I could not continue, so that although it was a great grief to me, I had to give it up. I willingly sign the paper and am sure there are many nurses who will be only too willing to do so.

Sincerely yours,

E. GIBSON.

5, Endsleigh Street,
Gordon Square, W.C.

We quote the following paragraphs from letters received on the suggestion to form the Trained Nurses' Economic League :—

"A Trained Nurses' Economic League is just what is required in our ranks. We private nurses feel the need of it more every day. I have to give the greater part of my earnings in support

of 'those dear to me'; it is my greatest pleasure in life, but makes my future very precarious. I enclose form signed, and wish the League every success."

"Some good will result from the disorganization of nursing conditions during the War, if an influential League to protect the interests of trained nurses comes out of it. I wish to join the League for the sake of others, as my financial condition is secure."

"Considering the terrible apathy of nurses, I wonder you can contemplate trying to rouse them, even in their own interest. I fear it is a hopeless task."

"Our Superintendent seems to think any attempt to protect the nursing profession from exploitation will only result in failure; the public will think us grasping, when all we desire is to keep off the rates it has to pay."

"I wish to join the Nurses' Economic League; the doctor I am working for thinks it a splendid idea—he says we ought to secure the support of the doctors, as if they would only employ nurses who were receiving a just fee, that would spell success. He greatly deprecates the War Office authorities having exploited us during this crisis, when every other class of worker is receiving an advance; he does not believe Lord Kitchener would approve of the policy at all if he had time to realise it. He blames the Joint War Committee, who are mostly rich people, who know nothing of nursing economics. But we nurses are really the culprits; we never really co-operate for the general good."

"I was delighted to see the suggestion in last week's *B.J.N.* to form an Economic League of Nurses, but as several nurses I know do not even understand what it means, please explain more fully next week. Just now we are feeling it very unfair that well-to-do girls, after a few weeks' training in this hospital, are to receive £20 a year right off in military hospitals, when our regular probationers have to give three years' hard work before receiving as much; it is most unjust."

"Let us hope, after the past six months' experience of chaos worse confounded in nursing affairs, many trained nurses will rise to the occasion, and form a really influential Economic League. In every country where trained nursing exists, the members of the profession have shown more self-respect than in England. I have travelled, and know conditions in all our self-governing colonies; it is time we waked up. No wonder we are offered half-price, when our work is indispensable, and unskilled workers thrust in our place. Every self-respecting nurse should join this new League."

"Matron quite approves the League, but does not think the committee will permit us to join it."

"Our Superintendent thinks we shall lose caste if we agitate about economic conditions, like trade unionists; but surely, just economic conditions are *right*, not just a matter of money."

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