

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 FREE PRESS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—Whilst offering my warm congratulations to you on the occasion of the twenty-fifth birthday of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING with its record of unswerving service to the highest ideals of the profession, may I also offer a word of encouragement at a time when the struggle is perhaps harder than ever?

Mr. Hilaire Belloc, in his recently published book, "The Free Press," testifies to the value of independent organs. Writing of two special periodicals, he says:—"We discover these papers with their limited circulation, their lack of advertisement subsidy, their restriction to a comparatively small circle, possessing a power which is not only increasing but has long been quite out of proportion to their numerical status." He writes very forcibly about the danger of advertisement to the freedom of the pen—a danger we have seen illustrated only too clearly in the case of the Nation's Fund for Nurses. He believes that the antidote to the advertisement-bribed press lies in "the formation of small, independent organs with their increasing influence." "It is now clear," he says, "that steady work in the exposure of what is evil, whatever forces are brought to bear against this exposure, bears fruit."

Had it not been for THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING there would have been no voice in the public press to uphold the cause of professional independence and progress.

May an ever-increasing number of nurses realise what this Journal is doing for them, and show their sense of indebtedness by supporting it in every possible way. We cannot be too grateful to its Editor for her clear vision and courageous steadfastness.

I am, yours faithfully,

E. L. C. EDEN.

The Grange, Kingston, Taunton.

NOT BEFORE TIME.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—From time to time suggestions have been made in the London press that the Nursing Staffs of civilian Hospitals are not receiving adequate remuneration.

We think that these suggestions are, in part, justified. The scale of nursing emoluments, none too high before the war, has now become very inadequate.

May we suggest that a Conference of the Chairmen of Metropolitan Hospitals should meet and discuss the whole matter of emoluments, holidays,

and hours of work? We think this would be the most satisfactory way of approaching matters.

Meanwhile the Council of Charing Cross Hospital have awarded an increase of 25 per cent. on the salaries of the Nursing Staff (which are on a level with most other London hospitals) to meet the additional cost of clothes and other living expenses, and we feel sure that the Council will have the full support of their subscribers in this movement.

We beg to remain, your obedient servants,

(Signed) GEORGE VERITY,

Chairman of the Council.

HERBERT F. WATERHOUSE,

Senior Surgeon.

JOHN TOWER,

Vice-Chairman.

Charing Cross Hospital,
Agar Street, Strand, W.C. 2.

METHOD IN THEIR MADNESS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Can you explain this madness upon the part of the public for managing nurses? Wherever I go it is the same, in town or country. No one appears to consider them capable of arranging their own affairs, and men are worse than women. I asked a patronising dame the other day why she did not try to run the shoppings, or girl clerks, or even domestic servants; but no, she must for ever be fussing and dictating to nurses, and, of course, they are all against a just form of legislation, and whenever the question is under discussion everyone flies into tempers. It must be a form of mania.

Yours truly,

A DISTRICT NURSE.

[If nurses were free to manage their own affairs they would become a rich and independent corporation. This their powerful employers are determined they never shall be. You will notice it is always their finances which must be so carefully kept under the control of outsiders. By the by, do you belong to the R.B.N.A., and have you thus proved you are prepared to help yourself and your colleagues by strong, united action? If not, join at once, and help to save the independence of the Nursing Profession in the coming fight for a just Registration Bill.—ED.]

MANY THINGS MAY HAPPEN.

By an unfortunate printer's error the editorial replies to two correspondents were, on September 21st, included in one. The paragraph after the word "impedimenta" in reply to "Done Brown," should be attached, as it is this week, to a letter which was held over. As is well known the Royal British Nurses' Association only registers nurses who hold a certificate of three years' general training, the error of appearing to advise a *Probationer* to join the Association must be self-evident.—ED.

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