

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.

DEAR EDITOR,

Before the war the *B.J.N.* published "Letters to the Editor." Would it not be a good policy to revive this agency for voicing one's views, and even airing one's grievances (sometimes imaginary) and bringing these to the light of day?

What better use for a free press!

For example, what have nurses to say about a tendency to "closed shop"? I heard recently of an applicant for a post by-passed in favour of another who was a member of a certain "association." Both had the same qualifications.—
Yours faithfully,
S. R. N.

The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the affiliated Associations and Leagues of the National Council of Nurses and numerous friends of nurses who contributed so generously to the sale of emblems and as a result of the Services which were held during the celebrations to mark the centenary of Florence Nightingale's departure for the Crimea, and the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the National Council of Nurses.

The monies received in this connection produced a grand total of £4,392 18s. 5d. and this amount has been forwarded to the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in support of the Appeal made by the Committee.

Owing to the generous voluntary help given by so many, the expenses incurred in connection with the above were kept to a minimum. The final statement of account is as follows:—

By amounts received—	Emblems	..	£	3,115	15	7	
	Collections	..	1,469	0	2		
	Donations	..	93	4	0		
			£4,677	19	9		
			£	s.	d.		
To expenses—							
Postages	..	25	13	10			
Travelling expenses		15	1				
Salaries and Agency fee	..	69	0	0			
Cost of Emblems	..	56	8	9			
Service St. Paul's	..	82	4	0			
Hire of Type-writer	..	6	0	0			
Badges	..	6	6	0			
Auditors' Fee	..	10	10	0			
Stationery	..	28	3	8			
		£285	1	4			
	Total expenses..		285	1	4		
Amount sent to the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee	£4,392	18	5		

The following letter of appreciation with permission to publish it has been received from Sir Ernest Burdon, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., LL.D., Honorary Treasurer of the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee.

"Dear Miss Duff Grant,

Being Honorary Treasurer I feel I must add my grateful thanks to those of Lord Luke and Miss Craven for your wonderful addition to the treasure which I am supposed to guard. It is a great relief to have this substantial extra sum

of money, and I think that your contribution means and conveys greater encouragement than perhaps any other individual contribution which we have received.

Yours sincerely,
ERNEST BURDON,
Hon. Treasurer."

I feel sure that all those who contributed to the effort to mark this centenary year will realise how greatly their efforts have been appreciated by the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee and will be gratified with the result.

LUCY G. DUFF GRANT,
President.
National Council of Nurses of
Gt. Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Story of Nursing.

By Jean McKinlay Calder, M.B.E., S.R.N.
(now Mrs. Dossetor)

By the author's request we publish the following letter received from her concerning our review of "The Story of Nursing" published in the September issue of the British Journal of Nursing.

62 KILBY ROAD, KEW, E.5,
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.
30th October, 1954

DEAR EDITOR,

I have just received the September, 1954, number of the *British Journal of Nursing* and hasten to comment on the review of my book "The Story of Nursing" which appeared in that issue.

The reviewer expresses surprise that, "the author . . . does not complete the story of nursing concerning the outstanding historical event of our time—the passing of the Nurses Registration Act, 1919, . . . and does not even mention in her story the pioneer of State Registration of Nurses—Ethel Gordon Fenwick."

May I draw your reviewer's attention to pages 53 - 56 in which is set out a brief account of the events leading to and including the passing of the Nurses Registration Act, 1919, and the establishment of the General Nursing Council, and to pages 65 - 66 where the foundation of the International Council of Nurses is described and mention is made twice of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

I am old enough to remember Mrs. Bedford Fenwick at the height of her intellectual powers and in no sense do I lack admiration for some of the wonderful work she undertook on behalf of nurses, and nursing. Indeed I have in my possession some photographs of her taken at the International Congresses in Paris - Brussels in 1933 and London in 1937, in both of which she was a distinguished figure. My book, however, is intended to be merely an "outline" of the history of nursing for senior schoolgirls and student nurses, and I am sure you will agree with me that to include in it the story of old controversies would have been regrettable. A hint of these is, however, provided and on page 72 a select book list is given for those who wish to read more deeply of some of the major events in nursing history.

I apologise for the delay in thanking you for reviewing my book, due to my absence in Australia, and I hope you will be good enough to publish this disclaimer in a future issue of the *British Journal of Nursing*.

Yours faithfully,
JEAN M. DOSSETOR (*née CALDER*).

[In this connection the reviewer experienced the keenest disappointment in not finding the name of Ethel Gordon Fenwick (the late Mrs. Bedford Fenwick) coupled with the 40 years' struggle for the State Registration of Nurses—in this "outstanding historical event."]

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)