



## Letters to the Editor.

### NOTES, QUERIES, &c.

*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.*

#### IN FAVOUR OF STATE REGISTRATION.

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—I have thought for some time of writing to say how thoroughly I approve of State Registration for Nurses; indeed, I fail to see how anyone, having the welfare of nurses and the nursing profession at heart, could do otherwise. I feel convinced, too, that State Registration would be a great boon and protection to the public. I am superintendent of a staff of forty nurses; several have already become members, and I shall certainly use any influence I may possess to induce the others, and any of our profession whom I know, to help this important question forward by becoming members of the Society for State Registration.—I am, Madam, Yours faithfully,

A. M. WALL.

The Yorkshire Co-operation for Nurses  
and Nursing Homes, Ltd.,  
22, Clarendon Road, Leeds.

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—I should like, through the medium of your pages, to remind anti-Registrationists of a fact they seem purposely and persistently to ignore, namely, although in the future a nurse may be a registered trained nurse, the advantages and disadvantages of her personal characteristics as regards her patients will then, as now, be fully displayed in the verbal and written testimonials of former patients. It lies then entirely with the would-be patient to choose between the registered and unregistered nurse. I think that a nurse, to become registered, will need to attain a certain standard in calculable properties, she will not then (more than now) detract from those palpable advantages by showing objectionable personal qualities. "In fact, feeling herself more as the "unit of a whole," she will in every way endeavour to uphold the honour of that "whole."

Yours very truly,  
AN EX-PRIVATE NURSE.

#### THE BURNING QUESTION.

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—The challenge given by "A Provincial Nurse" in your last issue to the anti-Registrationists is a reasonable one. What are they doing to improve the general efficiency of nursing? If they are doing nothing, what right have they to attempt to hinder the work of those who are, at all events, trying to remedy things which all admit need remedying? Until the anti's can show us that they are endeavouring to promote the public welfare they must excuse us for thinking their present position an un-

dignified and unworthy one. They are saying in effect, "We will do nothing ourselves, and therefore no one else shall attempt to do anything either; at any rate, if they do, we will do all in our power to frustrate their good work."—I am, dear Madam, Yours truly,  
Co-op. NURSE.

#### AN ENCYCICAL FROM THE LONDON.

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—I beg to enclose to you an attack on Registration by which the Matron of the London Hospital is attempting to influence nurses ignorant of the question. I think you, and those who are working so hard to improve the position of nurses and to rescue the sick public from many "terrible persons" who now prey upon them, ought to know of it. This letter is being privately and widely circulated by the Matron, presumably at the expense of the hospital, and it strikes me as being a very misleading affair. If you reviewed it and showed how unjust it is, it might do good.—Yours sincerely,

ONE WHO HAS WORKED AT THE LONDON.

[We hope to deal with the Encycical from the London Hospital when we can afford space.—Ed.]

#### AUTOCRATS FEAR NURSES.

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

MADAM,—In your issue of the 21st inst. I find you have circulated an incorrect and absolutely untrue statement with regard to myself in a letter you print headed "Autocrats Fear Nurses." The remarks referred to were not made by me, and I shall be glad to find this corrected in your next issue.

Believe me, Madam,  
Yours very faithfully,

J. SPANKLING.

75, Comerford Road, Brockley, S.E.

[We have referred this communication to the writer of the letter in question, and she sends us a cutting from the *Lee Journal* from which she quoted the Chairman's remarks. We, of course, accept Mr. Spankling's statement that he was not that Chairman.—Ed.]

#### MATRONS' MARKS.

*To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."*

DEAR MADAM,—I am sure many nurses will be grateful to you for calling attention to the fact that in nearly all training-schools for nurses the examination is on a most theoretical basis. The final exam, upon which my certificate was awarded was in every way most unsatisfactory; my practical knowledge was tested in no way, and no nurse took part in it as examiner. The claim, therefore, of the anti-Registrationists that they alone value a nurse's *practical work* and can estimate it is quite untrue. I know no large training-school in London where the Matron takes part in the practical examination of a nurse before the hospital certificate is awarded (though one may do so). My experience is that the exams. as at present conducted are a delusion. It would be interesting if Miss Lückes would tell us what steps she takes to acquaint herself with a nurse's practical work, as, unlike the Matrons of all other hospitals, she does not systematically inspect their work in the wards, which she visits only on very rare occasions, and all she knows of it must be second-hand.

I am, &c.,  
A CERTIFICATED NURSE.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)