



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.

THE TREASURER OF THE R.B.N.A.

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

DEAR MADAM,—As Mr. Langton has resigned the Treasurership of the R.B.N.A. after ten years' service, as he states, "putting £1,100 into it," and as the finances are still in a most unsatisfactory condition, why not allow the nurses to see what they can do in the matter by appointing a woman Treasurer? The whole attitude of the male hon. officers for the past ten years has been one of patronage, and the Association has lost caste by being supported on charity. No nurse worth her salt will touch the Association and help to drag it out of its present rut until it is recognised that it is a nurses' association, and that the nurse-members have a right to manage it financially and otherwise for themselves. They proved they could do it creditably and on a sound financial basis before Dr. Bezly Thorne and his supporters insisted upon altering the by-laws and reducing the nurses to mere marionettes. The only hope for the Association is to hand it over to the Matrons and nurses, and put them upon their mettle. At present, the whole tone of patronage and of contemptuous disregard of the wishes of self-respecting members is resented by the profession at large, and it is quite hopeless to make the Association successful with present methods. It has been tried for ten years, and signally failed.

Yours truly,
SELF-GOVERNMENT.

FLOGGING IN THE NAVY.

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

DEAR MADAM,—“Flogging in the Navy” is one of the topics which comes up for discussion in the Press once a year as regular as clockwork. This is a sure sign that popular sentiment is against flogging, and, now that the subject is to be brought before the House of Commons in connection with Lord Selborne's salary, there is a likelihood that the disgusting practice will be discontinued, if not actually abolished. Flogging is not in use in the navies of the other Great Powers (including the United States of America), nor is there any form of corporal punishment in the British Army. As discipline is maintained in the Army without flagellation, the ordinary citizen is led to ask, Why not in the Navy?

Mr. Arthur Lee objects to the use of the word “flogging” being applied to punishments inflicted with the birch rod and the cane. I care nothing about the technicalities of naval terms, and shall continue, in characterising those odious and stupid punishments, to use the English language in its common and proper sense.—Yours faithfully,

A. POPULAR NAVY.

Wolsingham, co. Durham,

Comments and Replies.

Certificated Nurse.—You should certainly not undertake the nursing of a maternity case except in an emergency. Special knowledge and experience are needed to enable you to discharge the duties adequately. Not only with regard to the mother, but also the infant, you cannot render the skilled services to which the patients are entitled without previous training. To dress and handle an infant properly are not easy matters. Knowledge of the best methods is gained only by constant practice under skilled teachers. An infant knows at once when it is in capable hands, and is not happy when unskilfully handled.

Miss Evans.—Your best plan is to apply to the Metropolitan Asylums Board, Asylum Board Offices, Victoria Embankment, E.C. Less than a year's experience in infectious nursing would be of very little use to you.

Provincial Matron.—We should suggest your writing to the Hospitals and Generals Contracts Co., Ltd., 33, Mortimer Street, W. The company aims at supplying hospitals and kindred institutions with surgical textile and furnishing requisites on terms enabling large economies to be effected, and their establishment should be visited by all who need such requisites.

Irish Girl.—Certainly experience in the science and art of cookery will be of use to you if you subsequently enter the nursing profession. By all means obtain it if possible.

Notices.

TO OUR READERS.

Those of our readers who wish for extra copies of this issue of the Journal containing the Report of the International Congress of Women, and also of next week's issue containing the Report of the Meeting of the International Council of Nurses, should order them at once from the Manager, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING Office, 11, Adam Street, Strand, W.C., or through their newsagents, as the supply is limited.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

All those desirous of helping on the important movement of this Society to obtain a Bill providing for the legal registration of trained nurses will find an application form on page vii., or can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. Secretary, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Editor will at all times be pleased to consider articles of a suitable nature for insertion in this journal—those on practical nursing are specially invited. The Editor will also be pleased to receive paragraphs, such as items of nursing news, results of nurses' examinations, new appointments, reports of hospital functions, also letters on questions of interest to nurses, and newspapers marked with reports of matters of professional interest.

Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page viii