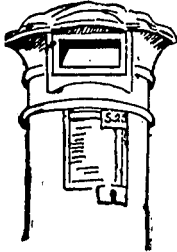


Letters to the Editor.

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.

OUR GUINEA PRIZE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—On behalf of Miss Annie Read, who is away from the hospital just now, I beg to acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of your cheque for £1 ls., the Puzzle Prize for October.

Yours faithfully,

M. HARRIS, Matron.

West Suffolk General Hospital,
Bury St. Edmunds.

DANCING AND DISCIPLINE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Many members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service read with pleasure, I feel sure, your editorial on dancing and discipline in last week's issue. It expressed what the Service feel as a whole, although some of the younger new nurses—full of life and spirits—are equal to dancing half the night and working most of the day. Still the question of discipline remains; and the advantage to the Service in having a Nursing Board to advise the Secretary of State for War on such questions cannot be over-estimated. The principle involved in that is much deeper than at first appears. Here we have experienced women placed in their rightful position of responsibility in national affairs. They have shown wisdom on this question—to the benefit of the whole community. Thus should it be throughout all government, man and woman combined in council for the good of humanity. Soon we shall look back upon the period in which women have been excluded as the dark age.

Yours truly,

AN OLD ARMY SISTER.

MATERNITY NURSING.

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

DEAR MADAM,—At the meeting to be devoted to the discussion of Maternity Nursing on November 23rd, would it not be well to elicit some expression of opinion on the point of whether or no a trained maternity nurse should have general training before learning maternity work, and those who are not trained nurses should be compelled to qualify themselves for the Central Midwives' Board Exam.? The present curriculum for maternity nurses as such alone, must surely be thoroughly out-of-date, unless taken up by trained nurses. I have had a sad experience in my own

family of the extreme ignorance of a certificated maternity nurse, whose entire hospital experience was of about two months' duration.

Yours faithfully,

G. F. B.

[No doubt this important point will receive due consideration.—Ed.]

THE NURSES' PETITION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I hope the nurses on the staffs of the hospitals where the lay managers and matrons have gone against State Registration, that is the organisation of nursing education by a central expert board, with power to define trained from untrained nurses, for the protection of the sick, and of the nurses themselves, will not be over-awed and fail to sign the Nurses' Petition to the Prime Minister. I fear this is likely to occur, as in conversing with a nurse on the matter, who is strongly in favour of registration, she said it would ruin her chances of promotion if she signed, as it would be considered an act of disloyalty to the Chairman and Matron who have organised the opposition. It is indeed high time that official autocracy over working women in hospitals should be realised by the general public and by Members of Parliament. The majority of nurses have their living to earn, and dare not oppose those who have the power to injure them. A central nursing authority would do much to gain liberty of conscience for nurses. This the opposing employers and matrons who support them know very well. At present they are of all working women in the most helpless position.

Yours truly,

A LATE HOSPITAL SISTER.

IS IT TRUE?

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

DEAR MADAM,—A lady who is not a nurse, I think, must either have met very few or her experience has been most unfortunate, if out of so large a community of women workers she has met no good ones.

I quite agree that nurses might in many ways be better (but like the fishes in the net where there are so many, there must be good and bad together).

Superintendents, Matrons, and the public generally would like all nurses to have a sound education, fair intelligence, and many other virtues, but the lady does not suggest where she would find such to fill all the vacancies which occur in the nursing profession.

Ladies of high intellectual ability seek for more attractive occupation, very few ladies, of means, birth, and education, are willing for love of humanity, to give up a life of ease and comfort, for one of drudgery.

No, most nurses are middle-class gentlewomen, who seek to earn their living, by ministering to the needs of others, and if as such, the nurse to the best of her ability does her duty who can blame her, if she is not always too sympathetic, when patients are crotchety and things generally go wrong.

Her hours on duty are long, she has no evening to

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