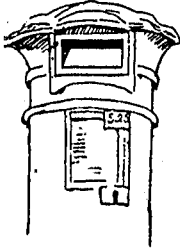


Letters to the Editor.

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.

TO MY FELLOW NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—A Bill has been introduced into the House of Lords which has been drawn up by the Central Hospital Council for London only, therefore it would be out of its province to make laws for that vast majority of nurses out of London, and that is what this Bill is intended to do. The Bill was drawn up very quietly, so quietly that no nurses knew anything of it, except possibly a few in London. Its existence was made known to the readers of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and then it was thought by many impossible that it could seriously be brought forward, but to the horror and dismay of all nurses who care about their profession, and who think beyond the daily routine of work, they find it has been read once last week in the House of Lords. One does not believe it could ever reach a second reading if the Lords spiritual and temporal realised that this Bill has been drafted without any consultation with the thousands of trained nurses who would be affected by it. Who is to appoint the official registrar, officers, clerks, and servants, and who are they to be? Are they to be nominees of this Central Council of London? Are they to be experts who appoint? Who will be appointed? Are they to be mere nominees, or are they to be elected representatives of the medical profession, of the laity, and of the great body of the nurses? Who is to decide what entitles a nurse to be registered? What is to disqualify her? All the Bill tells us is that an Order in Council will provide, among other things, an advisory council to act as assessors to assist the registrar in deciding nursing questions. In other words, the conduct of the nursing profession is to be handed over to the authority of an official registrar, appointed by whom? Is any other body of professional workers in England governed in such a manner? A Bill is secretly drafted to control nurses, introduced into the House of Lords without any notice being given to any of the representative bodies of nurses who could have expressed the wishes and opinions of those who would be affected by the measure. We are not a body of helpless uneducated women who desire or who need to be governed by a Council, even if it is of London. We know what we want, and have asked for it; we want to have State Registration, and a representative governing Council, representative of the public, of the medical profession, and of nurses elected by their own Corporation. Such a Bill is now before the House

of Commons, introduced by Mr. Munro-Ferguson. If we are not to be legislated for by a small body of those who have for twenty years attempted to crush out every instinct of freedom in the nurses of this country, we must be up and doing. We all have some influential friends in both Houses, and amongst public men and women. Let us appeal to them at once, and place our just cause before them.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINA FORREST,
President of Victoria and Bournemouth
Nurses' League.

THE FEEDING OF NURSES IN MATERNITY HOSPITALS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—May I venture, though rather late in the day, to corroborate the remarks of your correspondent, "An Englishwoman," in your issue of February 8th, re the feeding of nurses in maternity hospitals? My experience was almost exactly similar, but I paid less, entering as a nurse and not a student. Even so, one would think tumbler cups could have been managed instead of cups for drinking water out of, to mention one small, though unpleasant, detail. The meat was of a very bad quality, and the rest of the food provided was on a par. As for the night nurses, they had to shift for themselves during the night, no ample sufficiency of food being provided for them; they ate, chiefly, dry bread. I could add further details, but fear to trespass more on your space. Even three months of bad feeding and hard work must be deleterious to a nurse's health. One I heard of in this particular institution broke down utterly, from the two combined, within a fortnight of her three months being ended. Her certificate was refused. Such experiences are, as far as I can understand, not uncommon.

Yours faithfully,
ETHEL H. TRAFFORD.

10, Rue Caffarelli, Nice.

[We think the names of the institutions alluded to should be given when referring to faulty management, as if this is not done adverse criticism may injure those well managed.—Ed.]

THE MERIT OF POVERTY FOR OTHER PEOPLE.
To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—I note in "M.A.P.," on an article on "Nursing"—(why does not the editor get an expert and a woman to write on this question), by Mr. Sydney Holland, that he opens with this paragraph:—"The financial rewards of nursing are not very great, nor, in my opinion, is it desirable that they should be, for surely no woman should dream of becoming a nurse who is not prepared to sacrifice self now and always." This, presumably, is the reason why the nurses on the London Hospital private nursing staff are exploited cent. per cent. of their earnings. The *London Hospital Journal* recently reported that 230 nurses were "out" private nursing, and as after only two years' training they are supplied to a trusting public at full fees, I calculate (and the Secretary

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