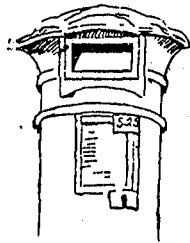


Letters to the Editor.



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 QUALIFIED AND UNQUALIFIED DISPENSER.
To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

MADAM,—I see by the letters in your paper that we are no nearer any definite understanding as to the proper position for the qualified and unqualified dispenser.

I wrote a letter to the *British Medical Journal* in June of 1905, and pointed out the great responsibility undertaken by those who employed dispensers who had not obtained the "minor" qualification from the Pharmaceutical Society.

The word "qualified" may be used in two senses.

The dresser or nurse in a hospital may be qualified to dress a wound or stop bleeding, because some experience has been obtained in this particular work; but the same dresser or nurse is not qualified to practice medicine or surgery as a qualified doctor. And the same may be applied to the dispenser. Any person may pour a liquid into a bottle, but such a person should be properly qualified, who undertakes the compounding and dispensing of medicines on his or her own responsibility. It has been pointed out repeatedly the grave responsibility which attaches to committees of hospitals, as well as to medical men, who are satisfied with leaving all the dispensing work in the hands of those who are not possessed of the proper qualification obtainable from the Pharmaceutical Society.

The Pharmaceutical Society should by some means make this matter as plain as possible; not only for the protection and safety of the public, but also for the sake of those upon whom they have conferred a proper licence to dispense.

The medical profession should also take the matter up and make some definite declaration bearing upon the question.

I am, Madam,

Yours truly,

EDWARD JEPSON, M.D.,

Hon. Physician, Durham County Hospital.
Durham.

NOMAD NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I was much interested in your few remarks in the "Echoes" about the cost of nursing in Homes, as my experience just lately has been somewhat varied. A certificated nurse, I have been out of England, working in South Africa for some years, and found myself quite

astray when I returned to London. I had an appointment in prospect, but wanted to fill in a few months, as I could not afford to be out of work. I answered several advertisements for private nurses, and posts in Nursing Homes, and in none of the institutions was I offered more than £30 a year, and in several of the latter £25. I therefore called at several agencies, where all sorts and conditions of women are apparently recommended without any real knowledge, where nurses are concerned, as upon my first visit a Matron of a Nursing Home engaged me by the week, neither the "agent" nor herself having any time, or apparently the desire to verify my references. I showed my certificate of eight years' standing. That seemed quite enough—lucky it was not a forgery. I quite see how wrong from the public point of view was this arrangement, as I was put on special to a bad operation on night duty without supervision after 11 p.m. I would ask you what is the remedy, as I can hop in and out of numerous Homes in the West End of London through these agencies, the persons in charge having no knowledge whatever of the quality of my professional status and work. Where I was trained the Matron was opposed to registration and Leagues of Nurses, but it seems to me that had I been a registered nurse, and a member of a reputable hospital nurses' League, I should have returned from abroad in touch with all that is best in nursing, and should not have been compelled to wander almost a stranger in London, and pick up stray cases as best I could. I may mention the Matron under whom I trained is dead, and the present Matron at my Alma Mater "knows not Joseph."

Yours faithfully,

A NOMAD.

[This is no uncommon case. A nurse who works abroad for half-a-dozen years soon drops out of the running. Upon her return home she finds innumerable changes, and very keen competition for well paid work. Until we have a Central Registration Board and central offices in London, Edinburgh, and Dublin, nurses who venture out of England will remain nomads.—*Ed.*]

STRAW HATS FOR BABIES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I note that when presiding at the Derbyshire County Nursing Association, Lady Frances Gresley spoke "of the good which would accrue if educated ladies all over England would hold common-sense classes for girls from the age of 14 and upwards, many of whom were going to be nurses. "The sort of thing she would like to teach girls was that the little muslin hats children wore were a danger and no protection from the sun, and every child from the age of five months should wear a Dunstable straw hat in the summer." Will you, or some of your trained readers, tell me if the suggestion was meant in earnest or a joke?

TRAINED MATERNITY NURSE.

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