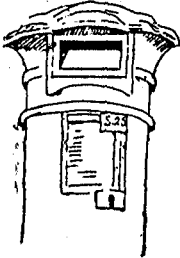


## Letters to the Editor.

NOTES, QUERIES, &amp;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."*

Miss Minnie H. Close thanks the Editor of *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING* for cheque of £1 ls., received yesterday, and wishes her a Happy New Year.

47, Tulse Hill, S.W.

## ALL IN GOOD TIME.

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

DEAR MADAM,—You have been misinformed. We have no intention whatever of altering the period of training for Nurses at the London Hospital. Whatever period may be thought necessary at other hospitals, we know that we can, at the "London," train a Nurse properly and efficiently in two years. Experience has shown this, and to-day the reports on our Nurses are so extremely satisfactory that we see no reason to make any change.

I can see no reason for keeping back a Nurse from doing work for which she is fit and capable because at other hospitals they feel that their Nurses are not fit and capable under three years. Thirty years would not do at some hospitals.

In passing, I may remark that one of our Nurses was thought well trained enough to nurse his Majesty in his serious illness, and 200 of them to-day are nursing under leading physicians and surgeons all over the country. It is the rarest possible event for us to receive any complaint of any want of skill. I myself see every report. Also, in passing, I note that many of the women who, as Matrons of hospitals, are doing splendid work have never had three years' training, and would not do better if they had. It is not a question of length of training, but of the individual characteristics of the woman to be trained which make the nurse.

Where probably you have been led wrong, is that it may have been brought to your knowledge, that any member of our Private Nursing Staff who wants to do so, can return to the wards for a third year, and this has been the custom at the "London" for many years.

Yours faithfully,

SYDNEY HOLLAND.

Kneesworth Hall, Royston, Herts.

[We regret that our congratulations to London Hospital probationers was premature, because, of course, when their educational interests are con-

sidered by a Central Authority they will not be encouraged to consider themselves efficiently trained without gynæcological experience, to say nothing of infectious diseases, etc. We know, however, that all nurses are being influenced to complete the very necessary three years' term of practical experience in the wards of the London Hospital, and it is to the credit of those nurses who are compelled to do private nursing for the benefit of the hospital—after two years work—that they should be willing to return to the wards and complete their training. The fact that Sir Frederick Treves, a London Hospital surgeon, selected a nurse from his own hospital to nurse the King after his operation is quite natural. What is surprising is that she had as a colleague a nurse only trained in a Women's Hospital and a Private Nursing Home! So long as nursing educational standards, ethics, and etiquette are non-existent such anomalies will continue, and they are unquestionably unjust to conscientious, well-qualified, trained nurses. We learn that quite a number of thoughtful members of the London Hospital nursing staff realise that through State Registration of nurses alone can they hope for a comprehensive and systematic curriculum of three years' training giving equal chances to all, qualifying them for the Government Services, and giving them legal status and promotion without favour.—Ed.]

## Comments and Replies.

*Certified Nurse.*—We believe that there are good openings for nurses with general training, who take the certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association in addition. The demand for highly trained nurses with these qualifications seems at present to be greater than the supply. Write to Dr. Robertson, Medical Superintendent, Stirling District Asylum, Larbert, N.B. He is glad to afford nurses with general training the opportunity of obtaining mental experience.

*Mrs. James.*—The London County Council offers a certain number of scholarships annually to women resident in the Administrative County of London, of the value of £25. Preference may be given to candidates who produce evidence of satisfactory training in general nursing, or of practical experience of sick nursing among the poor. Candidates must be prepared to satisfy the Council as to their need for pecuniary assistance for the purpose of training as midwives and to engage to practice as midwives amongst the poor in London for two years.

*Practising Midwife.*—You probably mean "Infancy and Infant Rearing." It is by Dr. J. B. Hellier, and is published by Charles Griffin and Co., Ltd., Exeter Street, Strand, London, W.C.

*Miss M. Edmondson.*—The decision of a training school is an important matter, greatly affecting your future. It is better to wait for a vacancy in a hospital where the training and standard is high than to accept an immediate one without regard to the standing of the institution.

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