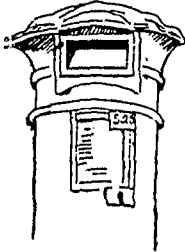


Letters to the Editor.



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."
 Miss A. C. Maxwell Moffat desires to acknowledge the receipt of cheque for £1 ls., with many thanks.

The South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth.

THE "GRAND ARMY."

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

DEAR MADAM,—There was only one false note in the whole debate on the Nurses' Directory Bill, and it was struck by Lord Balfour of Burleigh, in his reply, when he trotted out Burdett's stale old canard about the "stage army" and its "interested clamour." Surely after this signal victory for what is just, we may claim for it the title of "Grand Army," for did not its component parts respond most loyally to the call of duty? The International Council of Nurses, Matrons' Council, State Registration Society, Irish Nurses' Association, Scottish Registration Committee, Asylum Workers' Association, Fever Nurses' Association, and a number of organised Nurses' Leagues, to say nothing of the British Medical Association, the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, the National Union of Women Workers, the Women's Industrial Council, and the National Women's Social and Political Union.

Yours gratefully,
 ONE OF THE RANK AND FILE.

FINES FOR NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Can you tell me if nurses are fined, if, through ill-health, they have to cease work in a hospital? I have a young friend who has suffered in this way, and it appears to me most unjust. My friend signed a four years' contract with a large London hospital, and broke down from overwork. Her medical man said it would be dangerous to life for her to return and finish her time or pay for her training by doing private nursing at a low salary. In spite of his certificate, the Matron wrote demanding £10 fine, and, without knowing it, it seems my friend signed this obligation in her contract with the hospital. Is this a general system?

Yours truly,
 A WOMAN DOCTOR.

[No one should sign contracts without reading and understanding them. We consider these fines

very undesirable (and wonder if they do not infringe the Truck Acts), especially if ill-health compels a probationer to give up work. We believe very few hospital committees arrange for fines in probationers' contracts, and they usually deal most generously with the nursing staff when sick.—Ed.]

NURSES' AGENCIES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Unprofessional agencies for nurses must, of course, lead to the recommendation of unsuitable persons as private nurses, because the women who manage them know nothing of the various qualifications. At the same time, apparently, they meet a want, or they would not multiply in the manner they have of late years in London. Why have we not a reliable professional agency through which nurses and the public can be mutually benefitted? I also am a "Nomad," after five years in the Argentine. There is a new Matron at the hospital at which I trained, and she tells me there is no record of my three years' work there beyond the mere fact that I was awarded a certificate in 1901. Why does not someone help us in this matter?

Yours sincerely,

ANOTHER NOMAD.

[Why don't nurses help themselves? Our correspondent owns she has never joined any nurses' society. "I never thought I should want help," she writes. We presume also it never occurred to her that others might require it! We want to see nurses more public-spirited. Self-satisfaction and apathy are two cardinal sins in our ranks. They have a very corroding effect upon individual character and the status of the profession as a whole.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Status Infirmorum.—(1) The address of the Society for which you ask is 53, Berners Street, London, W. (2) Write to Miss H. L. Pearse, Superintendent of School Nurses, London County Council, 7a, Grand Parade, Highgate, N. We are glad to know that you and your colleagues find this Journal helpful and interesting, and thank you for your appreciative words concerning it.

Certificated Nurse.—You would not regret a few years spent in private nursing before taking up hospital work again permanently. It is a very useful experience, and brings a nurse into contact with the various methods employed by different surgeons and physicians. The nurse, who only knows the methods of a few doctors is apt to get very narrow.

Notices.

OUR PUZZLE COMPETITION.

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

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