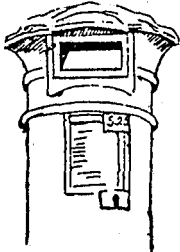


Letters to the Editor.



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 ELIZABETH FRY LEAGUE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I was deeply interested in your proposal to form an "Elizabeth Fry League," and should be glad to offer any help in my power towards that object.

During the last ten years the thought has been with me, and, being deeply interested in the "Women's Franchise" question, has more and more focussed my attention on the matter of late, so that your article, "For the Training of Prison Staffs," at once interested me.

I remember reading "The Life of Felicia Skene"—an ardent social worker in Oxford—some years ago. This also touched on this question. My work as Ward Sister in this Mission has further opened my eyes. We deal with the outcome of the moral failures of our social system. Our work is two-sided—the healing of bodies and souls.

I should be grateful to you to hear more on the matter.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

MADGE SUTTON.

Dr. Barnardo's Incurable Home,
Birkdale.

[We are pleased that many of our readers have expressed interest in this question. We want the qualification of those prepared to enter this new mission field to include the triple training of how to treat, as a whole, body, mind, and spirit. The first step must be, as vacancies occur, for prison matrons to have women ready equipped to offer themselves for these positions. Part of the probationary period must be spent in prisons; but what we need first of all is the inspired person. After New Year we hope to have a meeting to confer on this question.—ED.]

TRAINED NURSES' ANNUITY FUND.

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

DEAR MADAM,—In October you very kindly announced to your readers that this fund was once more prepared to receive applications for annuities. I hope it will interest you and your readers to know the result.

Of 26 disabled trained nurses who sent certified forms all but two were fully eligible, and the Council had a painful task to make a choice amongst them. Ultimately three were given annuities for life, beginning at 5s. a week. One was aged 41, and is totally paralysed; another, aged 40, has lost the use of her right arm by blood poisoning contracted in her duties.

If you insert this letter, as I hope, may I beg you to notify that in future applications may be made at any time. The certified forms will be scrutinised and carefully filed, and whenever a vacancy occurs all the forms, old and new, will be impartially considered and the annuity awarded to the most deserving case without any regard to date of application. Never again will the Council admit any claim to a grant by reason of priority.

A. OGIER WARD, Hon. Sec.

73, Cheapside, London, E.C.

P.S.—The entrance fee will be £10 in future, not £15.

NURSING AS A SOCIAL SCIENCE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—When Miss M. A. Nutting left the Johns Hopkins Hospital to accept a Professorship at Teachers' College, New York, many of her old friends and pupils thought the loss would be irreparable to the nursing profession in the States. The truth is she has gone forth to cultivate a field in nursing service which is to be of fruitful value to the community. I read with the greatest delight in your last issue of this splendid windfall of dollars—given by Mrs. Hartley Jenkins to Teachers' College. How providential that Miss Nutting is there to use it, and make the best of it, as we know she will do. I am of opinion that this gift of money demonstrates forcibly the value of legal status to New York Nurses. Now that nurses are "registered" there it has already given the public confidence in trained nurses. We see the result. They are now worth financial consideration and support. In the States we value education, and nursing education, will, I feel sure, be handsomely endowed in the near future wherever it has obtained State protection.

Wishing you all happiness in the coming year, and strength to continue your single journal fight in this country for the legalising of professional nursing.

I remain,

Yours cordially,

AN AMERICAN NURSE IN LONDON.

LAST WORDS FOR 1909.

Goodbye, 1909! Goodbye, little year! It seems but yesterday we bid you goodmorrow, and now we kiss you our finger-tips in farewell. Only the making of one little circle—imperceptible in the eons of time, and never to be again—never—never. Poor little year! Oh! I grieve for your passing.

Grieve not, little human. You and I together go. *Time and Life are eternal.*

Notices.

Advertisements and business communications should be addressed to the Manager, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 11, Adam Street, Strand, W.C.

OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

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