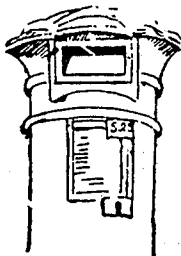


## Letters to the Editor.



*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.*

### PROVIDENT NURSING.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I should like to support the suggestion of your correspondent that friendly societies should add trained nursing to the benefits they offer to their members. Could not nurses who have the time, offer to address Friendly Societies on this subject, and explain to them the advantage it would be to them, and how often the poor have to pay now at high rates for services of so-called nurses whose ignorance is a positive danger to them.

Yours faithfully,

JUSTICE.

### THE FEEDING OF HOSPITAL NURSES.

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

MADAM,—The Committee of the National Food Reform Association contemplate calling a Conference at an early date to discuss the feeding of nurses in hospitals and other institutions. In the arrangements for such a meeting, they are naturally anxious to secure the counsel and co-operation of some of the leading hospital and Poor Law Matrons, from whom, as well as from others interested, they would be glad to hear.

They would be much obliged if you would kindly give publicity to their intention in your columns.

Yours, etc.,

CHAS. E. HECHEE, *Secretary,*  
National Food Reform Association.

178, St. Stephen's House,  
Victoria Embankment,  
Westminster Bridge, London, S.W.

### MENTAL NURSING.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I read with much interest Dr. Bernard Hollander's remarks on mental nursing in your issue of last week. His claim for nurses of general culture, as well as of high professional attainments, to care for the insane is entirely justified. In the past the sum of suffering to which the insane were subjected not only by callous mental attendants, but also from unintelligent narrow, and stupid ones must have been enormous.

Education more than anything else begets understanding and sympathy with persons of diverse opinions, but the nurse of limited education and circumscribed outlook, although excellent and worthy, is often a veritable blister to the genius whose reason is unstable, and who is mentally isolated when shut up with an uneducated attendant. It is very remarkable whenever a specialist speaks of the qualifications necessary for a nurse he or she claims that that special branch needs the best and highest type. We heard it reiterated over

and over again at the International Congress of Nurses last year. Whether the subject was hospital nursing, district nursing, school nursing, nursing in the army, abroad, or in the mission field, the cry was always the same—the opportunities of this branch are so great, its needs so unique that we need nurses of the highest standard, the best type. Proof conclusive it seems to me that the nursing profession needs educated gentlewomen to enter it in increasing numbers as probationers, and that the opportunities for them, when trained, are almost illimitable. To attract such women, it is manifest that the training of nurses must be put on a proper educational basis, not left to the sport of chance, as it is now under lay committees, and heads of training schools selected by them in the most haphazard fashion.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

THREE YEARS' CERTIFICATE.

### REFORMS IN OUR MINES.

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

MADAM,—As there seems to be some prospect now of fresh regulations being made with regard to our mines, is it too much to hope that the welfare of the four-footed workers, the pit ponies, may also receive some consideration, and that they may be put under proper supervision? The admission that the number of inspectors is wholly insufficient to see that the present rules with regard to human workers are properly carried out certainly implies that they can have no time even to think of the ponies. A mass of evidence has been collected by the Equine Defence League, which shows that the conditions under which they are often called upon to work are horrible beyond description. Covered with sores and raw wounds, often lame, sometimes with an eye knocked out, or even in some cases quite blind, they are liable to be kicked and cuffed by the boys, and kept at their work sometimes as much as 20 hours at a stretch without food or even water. When we know the callousness with which horses are treated by some men above ground, where there is always the chance of being called to account, one may, unfortunately, form some opinion of the sort of treatment they may receive at the hands of rough men where there is little supervision and no public opinion to restrain them.

Mr. Churchill has a unique opportunity of instituting a beneficent and much-needed reform.

I remain, yours faithfully,

EDITOR, "ANIMALS' FRIEND."

## Notices.

### CHANGE OF DATE.

The meeting of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland will be held at Birmingham on Saturday, July 16th, instead of Friday, July 15th, as previously announced. Information as to trains and railway fares will be sent early in July to members of the Council. A notice to the same effect will be published in this Journal on July 6th.

### OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

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