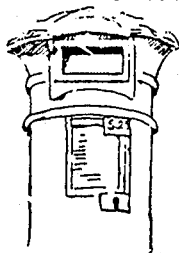


### Letters to the Editor.



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.

#### A NURSES' MEMORIAL TO FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have read your article in last week's BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, regarding the proposed memorial by nurses to Miss Florence Nightingale, and I entirely agree with your remarks. Nothing would be more opposed to one's conception of Miss Nightingale's character than a memorial in the form of a nurses' charitable institution. First and foremost, I feel sure nurses would wish to honour the great foundress of their profession by some visible and outward token such as a statue placed in some beautiful and suitable spot. Frankly, when that is done—and I would have the statue a worthy and noble work of art—I fail to see the need for any further memorial from nurses. It would be surely far better to call for small subscriptions from many than large ones from the few, not that many nurses can afford large sums. The modern craze for founding institutions, pensions, almshouses, and so forth as memorials has never appealed to me.

I do not think nurses really want to present something useful to their profession as a memorial to Miss Nightingale. Let us raise a statue that shall be beautiful and true, worthy of the great organiser of a great woman's profession. Let it be typical not only of our homage to her memory, but also an outward and visible sign of our affection for and pride in the noble profession to which we belong, and of which she is at once the most striking type and the foundress—something future ages can point to and say:—"Thus the nurses of the twentieth century honoured the memory of the woman who gave them their work—of the woman who founded modern nursing."

If that were well done and entirely by nurses, I should say no more was necessary. It will and should be costly and worthy.

The memorials given by others would not concern us.

I can imagine nothing more suitable for nurses.

Yours faithfully,

M. MOLLETT.

Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital.

#### THE STATUS OF FEVER NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—With reference to your article in last week's issue on "The Status of Fever Nurses," I should like strongly to support all that you say on this question. It is so important that when the foundations of our profes-

sion are laid that they should be "well and truly laid," and however it may be for the temporary convenience of the fever hospitals, it is certainly not to the advantage of the nurses, and therefore of the public, whose interests are bound up with theirs that there should be a special register of fever nurses. The registers of mental and of male nurses are necessities, and will be evidence that in the one case, in caring for the diseased in mind, and in the other for such cases of general disease as can suitably be nursed by men, those whose names appear on their respective registers have had an all-round training.

The objection to the State certification of fever nurses is that it would not afford evidence of an all-round training. On the contrary, it would only imply the possession of a training, valuable it is true, but partial and incomplete. The effect would be pernicious in two ways. If nurses could obtain this State certificate many of them would be content to practise nursing without obtaining a general training, and the public would not realise the limitations of a fever nurse's training and would credit her with more knowledge than she possesses.

I am glad that the Fever Nurses' Association and the Central Registration Committee have set their faces against the registration of fever specialists and stand for the registration of the extra qualification, and hope that in the public interest this position will be adhered to.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

M. A. B.

#### THE NATIONALISATION OF THE MEDICAL SERVICE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I was interested to observe that at the Conference of the British Hospitals Association one member held that "the whole hospital system was drifting not only in the direction of State control of the hospitals, but in the nationalisation of the whole medical service." Surely this would be a move in the right direction. The public owes an inestimable debt of gratitude to the medical profession, but the medical practitioner is in the unfortunate position that the more successfully he exercises his skill the less will the public require the exercise of that skill. Surely there should be some financial recompense for members of the medical profession who maintain the public health at a high level, as well as for those members of the healing art who cure or alleviate disease. The same principle applies in a minor degree to trained nurses whose work in an increasing degree is becoming preventive.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours truly,

HEALTH VISITOR.

#### Notices.

##### OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

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