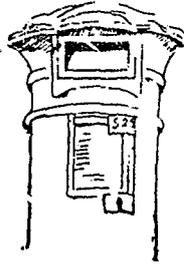


Letters to the Editor.



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.

OUR GUINEA PRIZE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—This morning a BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING came for me, and much to my surprise but with very great pleasure I see that I have won the Guinea Prize.

I like the Journal immensely, and have taken it in regularly for some time.

Yours truly,

HELEN R. FLINT.

224, Kingsbury Road, Erdington, Birmingham.

THE TEACHING OF NURSING BY NURSES.

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

MADAM,—I was very glad to see that the St. John Ambulance Association has retreated from an entirely untenable position in regard to the teaching of nursing by nurses. It is, however, sad to think that an Association which professes to be national and educational in scope should prefer to withdraw from such a thoroughly national and educational plan as the Voluntary Aid Detachment Scheme rather than widen its borders, revise its constitution, and generally bring its work up to date.

It seems to me that every society which is to be effective, whether for peace or war, while being well organised, should also be sufficiently elastic in constitution to meet ever improving methods. This certainly cannot be when a society is so bound down by "fundamental rules" that even a suggestion of progress will not be entertained by those in power. I fear the Council of the St. John Ambulance Association have chosen the wrong road, and will discover too late that they, at least as an educational body, are not of the running.

I remain, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

MARY BURR.

Ebford, Topsham, S. Devon.

THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF MEDICINE AND NURSING.

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

DEAR MADAM,—At the annual meeting of the Cottage Benefit Nursing Association, held last week, at 12, Belgrave Square, S.W., when the Countess of Ancaster presided, Miss Broadwood, Hon. Secretary, said that they had been experimenting for many years to supply to cottagers the class of nurse they required, not the class that some people thought they ought to have.

"The class that they ought to have" is the thoroughly trained nurse, efficiently educated for

her duties, not a monthly nurse with a smattering of general nursing picked up outside a hospital. If the Cottage Benefit Association restricted itself to supplying Cottage Helps it might serve a useful purpose, but to claim that it is a Nursing Association, and that its so-called nurses are the most suitable for cottagers is an arrogant claim which must be exposed in the interests of the poor who are entitled, when ill, to as good nursing as the rich. To train nurses in the East End slums, as an additional experience to their hospital training, would be useful to those intending to nurse the poor in their own homes, but to substitute work in the slums for that training, is to create a class of workers who, whatever they are, are not trained nurses, and have no right to be sent out as such. It is natural that the anti-registrationists should be welcome on the platform of the Cottage Benefit Nursing Association. It is always those with "vested interests," that is to say, those who maintain inefficient standards of training, who make money out of nurses' labour, who oppose efficient education and organisation for nurses. Last year the Hon. Sydney Holland found an opportunity for expressing his anti-registration views on the platform of the C.B.N.A.. This year, Sir William Allchin, who said he had been an opponent of registration from the first, spoke against the movement. Registration would, he said, neither protect the public nor benefit the nurses themselves. So the anti's have said for years, but failed to convince a Select Committee of the House of Commons, and later the House of Lords, on this point. Nursing, said Sir William Allchin, was not a profession, and "whatever the claims of women to take a medical degree might be, it was obviously undesirable to make her both a nurse and a doctor at the same time." The speaker, of course, showed himself thereby quite out of touch with the value of modern nursing in connection with medical treatment. As Miss Albinia Brodrick has well said, "a nurse is no more an inferior kind of doctor than a doctor is a superior kind of nurse," and the nurse of to-day is far too well aware of the interdependent relations of medicine and nursing, and too happy in her work, to wish to be, or pose as, an inferior member of any other.

Yours truly,

A SUPERINTENDENT OF TRAINED DISTRICT NURSES.

Notices.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Editor will at all times be pleased to consider articles of a suitable nature for insertion in this Journal—those on practical nursing are specially invited.

Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

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