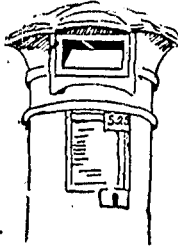


## Letters to the Editor.



*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 SOUL OF JOURNALISM.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I hope you will allow one of the humblest of your collaborators to take the opportunity of your most worthy election to the position of President of the Society of Women Journalists not only to congratulate you, but to thank you for all that you and your Journal have done for the nursing profession.

Throughout the whole of your journalistic career you have stood, not alone for what is progressive in nursing, but also for what is right and honest and just, nor have you ever been weak enough to allow the present need to obscure your vision of a wider scope of usefulness, of a higher and better future for us.

You have not yet placed the coping-stone on your work, not yet does nursing take its place among the recognised professions; but that that event ranks no longer amongst the possibilities, nor even the probabilities, but the certainties of the future, we owe to you and your pen. There is a saying, "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" and you have taken for your motto, "What shall it profit the nursing profession if it gain the whole material world and lose its soul?" You have admitted our frailties and have not spared our faults, but you have allowed us a professional soul.

You do not know the meaning of the word "sunderer," and you have taught us that there is no such word as despair.

You have shirked no work, no drudgery, to uphold the honour and dignity of our profession, and we should be ingrates indeed if we did not recognise and appreciate the high toil in which you have spent your life for us.

I voice the feelings of thousands of nurses when I thank you for all that you have done for us and express the pride we all feel in the honour that has been paid to our great nursing journalist.

I am, Madam,

Yours gratefully,

M. MOLLETT.

Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital.

[Thank you, dear collaborator, we are deeply gratified.—Ed.]

### JUSTICE TO FEVER NURSES.

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

MADAM,—One last word in reply to "E. G. F." "E. G. F." suggests that the party with whom she acts are the real friends of fever nurses, and that those with whom I act desire to keep fever

nurses in a subordinate position, "half trained," and "at the mercy of municipal bodies who govern fever hospitals." Let me explain, parenthetically, that although I am, as "E. G. F." designates me, Medical Officer of Health for Port Glasgow, I am also County Medical Officer for Renfrewshire.

Now, what are the real practical alternatives before fever nurses? The first is the certificate of the Fever Nurses' Association (a self-constituted body), given on a two years' training, with a single examination—of a sort. The second alternative is that which we advocate—a place on the Register of Fever Nurses, carrying with it a statutory certificate, given after a training and examinations prescribed by a statutory body. With this we associate a reciprocal arrangement whereby training in a hospital for infectious diseases (including phthisis) shall count as part of the training for a place on the general Nurses' Register, and training in a general hospital shall count as part of the training for a place on the Fever Nurses' Register. Who, then, is it whose action would keep the fever nurses in a subordinate and "half-trained" position?

"E. G. F." says that the Nurses' Registration Bill "claims power for the registration of a fever-nursing qualification, in addition to, or in conjunction with, a general nursing qualification." But what is this "fever-nursing qualification" under the Bill? In the words of the Bill "the certificate of the Fever Nurses' Association or its equivalent." And the fee for registration is half-a-crown, while the fee for registration on the general Nurses' Register is two guineas. That shows the respective values of the two qualifications as estimated by the supporters of the Bill.

I have said that there are practically only two alternatives for the fever nurse desiring registration. But "E. G. F." says there is the alternative provided by the Bill. Observe how that discriminates against the fever nurse. A young nurse starting in a general hospital can obtain a registrable qualification in three years. A young nurse starting in a hospital for infectious disease cannot obtain a registrable qualification within five years—at least. But "E. G. F." is the friend of the fever nurse! I am afraid the fever nurse will be inclined to cry—Preserve me from my friends.

I am, yours faithfully,

A. CAMPBELL MUNRO, M.B., D.Sc.

[The claim of the Nurses Registration Bill that all nurses should be required to have a basis of general training is endorsed by the Fever Nurses' Association, the only Society in which Fever Nurses (with medical practitioners) are associated together with the special object of promoting their professional interests, and by Miss E. A. Stevenson, a Vice-President of the Scottish Nurses' Association, who has ably voiced the views of many Scottish nurses. As the question is one which primarily affects the nurses, their opinions should have full weight on this matter.—Ed.]

## Notice.

### OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)