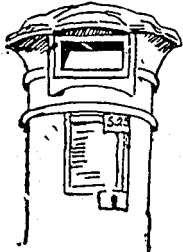


Letters to the Editor.



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.

NURSES' MEMORIAL TO KING EDWARD VII.

DEAR MADAM,—Referring to my letter, to which you were good enough to give a place in your issue of February 4th, may I be permitted to make a correction in the list therein given. It is this. The name of the lady in Derby, to whom subscriptions may be paid, should be Darbyshire and not Alcock; and for "Durham—Miss Whitlock" should be read "Sunderland—Miss Thomson, General Infirmary."

Thanking you for your assistance in the matter, I remain,

Yours faithfully,

MABEL H. CAVE.

Westminster Hospital,

Broad Sanctuary, S.W.

[We have pleasure in publishing this letter. We noted in the list of ladies to whom subscriptions may be sent for the above fund that the representative at Derby was Miss Alcock, the Assistant Matron at the Royal Infirmary, who had just been appointed to the Matronship of the Royal Portsmouth Hospital, but published the list as we received it. Will our readers kindly note that in Derby subscriptions should be sent to Miss Darbyshire, Matron of the Royal Infirmary, and in the county of Durham to Miss Thomson, at the General Infirmary, Sunderland, not to Miss Whitlock, at Durham.—Ed.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of cheque for five shillings as the prize for last week's competition.

Yours faithfully,

MENA M. G. BIELBY.

Cranford, near Hounslow.

DISCIPLINE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I was very interested in your article on the subject of discipline, as I find it increasingly difficult to maintain the standard necessary for efficiency.

That is really, of course, what we aim at. Nobody wants to make arbitrary rules for the sake of making probationers' lives a burden to them, but in all large communities authority must be vested in someone, and there must be loyalty to that authority if the machinery is to run smoothly. Where would our army be without the enforcement of discipline? We might just as well be without one. And while I am on the subject I may say that grumbling is not

allowed in the Army. It is that which, to my mind, undermines discipline so much. The undercurrent of disaffection, not expressed audibly in words which can be dealt with, but the disaffection which is felt, and the tacit depreciation of discipline, and of the Matron's authority (often, I am sorry to say, by members of the resident staff), which makes her position so difficult.

Everyone knows that probationers are like the proverbial flock of sheep, swayed this way and that by any chance leader. They mean no harm, but they do like to be with the majority, and they think it rather big to laugh or grumble at rules when a medical man says, "Is it true the Matron won't let you do so and so?" As they grow older, and in their turn have responsibility placed upon them, our pupils realise the value of discipline. Can't they take it on trust for a little while?

Yours faithfully,

MATRON.

NOTICE.

The BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is the official organ of the following important Nursing societies:—

The International Council of Nurses.

The National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

The Registered Nurses' Society.

The School Nurses' League.

As their official organ is widely read by the members of these societies, the Editor will at all times be pleased to find space for items of news from the Secretaries and members.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

Those desirous of helping on the important movement of this Society to obtain an Act providing for the Legal Registration of Trained Nurses can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR FEBRUARY.

A Prize of 5s. will be awarded each week during February to the writer of the best paper on the following subjects:—

In each of these competitions the answer should be from 300 to 500 words in length.

February 18th.—"How would you ventilate (a) a hospital ward, (b) the patient's room in a private house?"

February 25th.—"How would you alleviate the discomfort of a patient to whom fluids have been forbidden for a period after an abdominal operation?"

Rules for competing for our Prize Competition will be found on page xii.

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