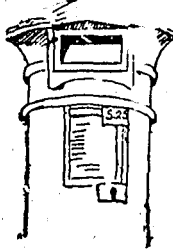


Letters to the Editor.



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 PRIZE COMPETITION.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."
Miss Lush begs to acknowledge with thanks the cheque for 5s. for Competition prize.
University College Hospital,
Gower Street, W.C.

BROKEN CONTRACTS.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."
DEAR MADAM,—It is extraordinary how little nurses think of their business contracts, and I was pleased to read your remarks in last week's issue. Women workers have so many family calls that no one would wish to deal hardly with nurses, but irresponsibility should not be encouraged. I have been compelled to insert a penalty for breach of contract in my regulations, as any excuse seems good enough for not fulfilling them. At home this is bad enough, but in India it must lead to much irregularity. I do wish girls could be taught at school that to break a contract is dishonest; to make a promise and not to fulfil it is untruthful. As wage-earners also they should be taught business. Now they know nothing of it.

Yours truly,

SUPERINTENDENT.

THE UNIFORM OF VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENTS.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."
DEAR MADAM,—We nurses resent our uniform being worn by domestics and others, but you are quite right in stating that many women who are in earnest in wishing to help the Voluntary Aid Detachments of the Red Cross Society are opposed to wearing nurses' uniform. Apart from the cost they prefer a distinct dress. A capacious apron overall of pin-point or linen would answer their requirements indoors, and outdoor uniform is quite superfluous. Many nurses do not now wear it. As the Red Cross Society do not intend to provide any uniform, if they want sensible women to help them, the dress to be worn must be as cheap as possible.

Yours truly,

A PATRIOTIC MATRON.

COTTAGE HOSPITAL STAFFS.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."
DEAR MADAM,—Should the patients in Cottage Hospitals be left in the care of a servant? I have lately visited a most charming Cottage Hospital, where we were received and taken round by a maid (I believe a general servant), the nursing staff consisting of a nurse, who was out, and an

assistant, who is also the district nurse of a wide area, so, of course, was also out. What would happen if under these circumstances a bad accident was brought in, because surely accidents do happen in every district, and surely the hospital should be staffed so that a trained nurse should be always on duty to receive them!

"Some day there will be a big scandal, and then the Committee will wake up to their responsibility," remarked my friend, who was a resident. "But they are all men, and are quite sure that one woman 'can manage' night and day duty in the wards, the housekeeping and domestic affairs, and that any relaxation is worldly and unnecessary."

Yours truly,

N. B.

[The majority of cottage hospitals are very insufficiently staffed, and great risks are run by patients. Too much charity is being done in many directions at the expense of the health of women workers. We often receive complaints of the "slavery" from Matrons of cottage hospitals.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Country Matron.—The Matron should select and recommend all probationers for appointment. She should also have power of suspension. The Committee who, as trustees of the subscribers, are responsible for the whole hospital staff, should appoint and discharge all nursing officials. The Matron cannot demand absolute power (as she is herself an officer), without incurring unnecessary difficulties, and placing herself in an invidious position where contentious persons are concerned. The Matron should be Chief Nurse, and united in professional co-operation with every member of the nursing staff—their guide and friend. If she ranges herself with others against the best educational and economic interests of the nursing profession generally she loses professional caste, becomes a sort of buffer, and earns lip service only.

Notices.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR MAY.

In future the new set of questions will be published in the last issue each month. The questions for May are as follows:—

May 13th.—What are the most important points in nursing cases of anæmia, and why?

May 20th.—How would you teach probationers to fill and apply (1) hot water bags; (2) ice bags?

May 27th.—How would you prepare (1) the room; (2) the bed; (3) the patient in a confinement case?

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.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)