

## 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.*

## TOO GOOD FOR PRIVATE NURSING.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Can you explain why so many matrons disdain private nursing? It appears very extraordinary. As the salary is so little in hospitals, even when a nurse is trained and certificated, it is impossible for her, without private means, to save a penny, unless she leads an uninspiring and hopeless sort of life going nowhere, and seeing nothing. It cannot be because private nursing is better paid than matrons object to it, otherwise they would object to a rise of salary from sister to matron—but the fact remains. I have heard it said a dozen times: "She is too good for private nursing." By this means a sort of slur is cast professionally on private work, and the most incompetent nurses, trained and semi-trained, take it up, and reflect discredit on our branch. It seems to me, after some years' experience of the very great and often unrestricted power which nurses exercise in private houses, that something should be done to encourage more of the best and cleverest women in our profession to take up this branch—there is no doubt it wants *prestige*.

I am,

Yours truly, F. C.

[We sympathise with the views of "F. C." Private nursing in this country does need prestige. In the United States this branch of nursing is recognised as most responsible, and, therefore, commands adequate fees. We have found a few matrons prejudiced against nursing the rich—as if institutional nursing was a charitable occupation, and, therefore, more honourable. It is not. Wherever the true spirit of nursing is dominant, in hovel or palace, there is to be found honourable work, and the labourer is worthy of his hire. At the same time, temperaments and special talents must be taken into consideration in staffing a hospital. Powers of organization, power to impart knowledge, good business faculty, physical strength and energy, are all needed in ward work—they make for the comfort of wards full of sick people. These talents are required in a lesser degree in private nursing. Given efficient training and skill, the personality of the private nurse is of paramount importance. First and foremost, she should be a sympathetic human creature, cultured, well educated, and refined, possessed of great self-control and endurance; and, to be perfect, should possess an inexhaustible sense of humour. Last, but not least, she should possess charm of manner, and look nice, as every clean, neat, bright and kindly woman does.—ED.]

## INCOME TAX ASSESSMENTS AND ALLOWANCES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In a recent letter we called the attention of your readers to the fact that they will only be entitled to be charged income tax at the 9d. rate on their earned incomes if they make their returns, and claim the relief *before* the 30th of September. Already those hardy annuals, the blue notices of assessment, are in course of distribution in some districts. Now, it is certain that the allowances in respect of children, life assurance, and the usual statutory abatements, have only been allowed to those who have duly lodged their claims to them. Your readers must therefore carefully examine their notices, and immediately give notice of appeal if the assessment is too high, and claim the allowances above referred to, if they are not duly allowed on the notice.

Yours, &c.,

THE INCOME-TAX ADJUSTMENT AGENCY, LTD.  
Poultry, E. MONTAGUE, *Secretary*.  
London, E.C.

[We fear a very limited number of nurses are called upon to pay income tax, but those who have private means should be careful to claim the reduction on earned incomes, especially as they are taxed without representation.—ED.]

## REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Inquirer, Peterborough*.—(1) Apply to the Secretary of the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W., and ask his advice about the best books for the purpose you mention. (2) We never advise as to treatment. Consult a medical practitioner.

*Sister K., Manchester*.—Write for the prospectus of the Glasgow Assurance Corporation, 104, West George Street, Glasgow.

*Mrs. T. F.*—We advise that your daughter should not train in the hospital of the town in which you reside. Constant visits home in hours off duty are very disturbing to routine, especially as you acknowledge that you are of a "fussy temperament." Send her from home and let her find her feet; she will be much happier.

*Children's Hospital Nurse*.—We do not consider it just to the patients that you should be sent to nurse adults in private houses, as you have only received training in a Children's Hospital. Your wisest course is to enter a general hospital, and qualify thoroughly. Waste no time in adopting this course. Experience will give you confidence.

## NOTICE.

## STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

Full information as to the movement for the State Registration of Trained Nurses can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)