

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 COMPETITIONS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Very many thanks for the cheque for 5s., which I received this morning. It is very delightful to be the prize winner.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

J. M. STEVENS.

Royal Infirmary, Bristol.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Received cheque for 5s., for which I thank you.

Faithfully yours,

A. DONALD.

View Terrace, Aberdeen.

THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND NURSING.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I wish most heartily to thank you in the name of the outside public for the splendid crusade you have carried on on the subject of the provision of fully-trained and qualified nurses being available for our sick. It appears to me that the apathy on the part of the general public on this question is absolutely inexplicable.

People on all sides are to be heard complaining of the treatment their relations and friends have received in many cases from nurses who are not properly trained, yet these same people do not take the faintest shadow of interest in the question of how to provide the sick—whether poor or rich—with properly-qualified persons to nurse them.

There is, as far as I can learn, only one way to achieve this desired end—that is, for the Registration of Trained Nurses Bill to be placed on the Statute Book.

Therefore let me thank you most sincerely in the name of the lay public for the fine devotion you have shown to this most desirable cause.

I think the apathy of the general public would perhaps yield place to indignation if they did but read a little of what is going on in our midst with regard to the nursing world. There are many who do not realise, for instance, that the nursing in our Poor Law infirmaries even now—though Miss Twining has done so much towards the improvement of Poor Law nursing—is still very lacking in what it should be.

In 1909 I learnt in your journal that Dr. McVail stated in his evidence in the Report of the Poor Law Commission, that “the nursing

arrangements are, with few exceptions, inadequate.”

It is therefore with genuine satisfaction that I read—week in, week out—your journal, with its high standard held aloft for all nurses to aim at.

There is no higher or nobler profession, and it is well to give it the incentive to aspire to the highest possible ideal.

Yours faithfully,

MADELEINE GREENWOOD,
Vice-President, Society for State
Registration of Nurses.

BACHELOR BISHOPS AND INFANT MORTALITY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Why does Miss Amy Phipps object to my sending a copy of our admirable journal—in which expert nursing opinion alone is to be found—to the Bishops who are taking a public part in instructing “mothers” in their maternal duties? Miss Mollett’s letter of November 18th contained most interesting statistics, showing that nine European countries have a far higher rate of infant mortality than we have, and that England’s death rate for infants is lower than any European country with the exception of Denmark and Norway. In forwarding these statistics for the information of the Bishops I felt sure the news would give them as much pleasure as it had given me; and I hold that when persons publicly instruct and advise others their knowledge of the subject should be as complete as possible. During the registration campaign, which is a claim for efficient and guaranteed training of nurses, I interviewed several clerical gentlemen, including a Bishop, and I regret to say that their knowledge of the question was most superficial. The majority dismissed it as “another of these women questions”—a hasty assumption in considering a question of such individual human importance—as all questions must be which touch standards of national health. When Lord Ampt-hill carried the Nurses’ Registration Bill through the House of Lords, in 1908, the Bishops did nothing to support it—indeed, the speech of the Archbishop of Canterbury aroused lively indignation amongst the pioneers of this reform. No: let men—even Bishops—learn with sympathetic avidity everything there is to know on every question on which they advise and legislate.

Yours truly,

KATE MARTIN.

COTTAGE NURSES IN IRELAND.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—A cutting from your JOURNAL re Cottage Nurses in Ireland has been forwarded to me.

The real question at issue is, shall the poor in many parts of rural Ireland continue without any sort of nurse whatsoever (with the exception of the district maternity), or shall they endeavour

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)