

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.

DEAR MADAM,—I beg to acknowledge, with many thanks, the receipt of the Competition Prize.

Yours faithfully,
FLORENCE BLOY.

St. George's Infirmary,
Fulham Road, S.W.

THE TRAINED NURSES' FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am very glad to see in our JOURNAL that the Trained Nurses' Protection Committee has agreed to form the nucleus of a Nurses' Friendly Society. Many nurses recognize that the Committee did its utmost to secure better conditions for them when the Insurance Bill was before Parliament, and that it was alone in doing so, and consequently have every confidence that it would look after their interests in the future. I for one should have every faith in a Society organised on the lines outlined in Miss Mollett's address at Morley Hall, and in our JOURNAL. I attended that meeting and thoroughly endorse the opinions expressed there as to the desirability of founding our own Society.

I am, dear madam,
Yours faithfully,
ONE WHO IS READY TO JOIN.

"THE INSURANCE TAX."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was glad to read a letter by one of your correspondents signed "Wroth." Why can't nurses follow her suggestion, and refuse, as a body, to pay the Insurance Tax? The Government could hardly put us all into Holloway, unless they secure an annexe for our accommodation! We should, undoubtedly, be entitled to first division treatment, if we went. We have no legal status, no representation, and, therefore, it is only logical that we should be exempt from taxation. Personally, I am joining the Women's Tax Resistance League, which has its offices at 10, Talbot House, St. Martin's Lane, W.C. Trusting other nurses and midwives will follow suit.

I am, Madam,
Yours truly,
Roehampton Vale. GLADYS TATHAM.

IN A COTTAGE HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—It is interesting to note the diametrically opposite points of view taken by your correspondents who have read your review of "In a Cottage Hospital." My own point of view is that terrible as the book is, if it is true, it is far better to bring the evils with which it deals to the light. Surely our training as nurses teaches us that wounds should be probed to the bottom, and that it is unsound scientifically to hide up a sore and let it fester below the surface. If these things are happening in our hospitals let them be known—let the hospitals be named—and then perhaps there will be a chance of reform, but as long as they are hidden up because "the public is quite censorious enough about hospital affairs" what chance is there of better conditions being introduced?

It seems such a pity that because a wrong is revealed in one cottage hospital, the Matron of another managed on right lines should resent the criticism as more or less an injury and reflection on her own institution. Why? Surely for its honour she should wish kindred institutions purged of evil, or a deservedly bad reputation in one case may be quite unmerited in another case, and yet both may be associated together in the public mind. I am sure the right course is to acknowledge an evil if it exists, and then to do our utmost to purge our profession of the unclean thing, though I agree that until we get State Registration, and the right of control, that the necessary powers are wanting. So much the greater need to work hard until our Bill becomes law.

Yours faithfully,
SURGICAL NURSE.

HOW TO HELP AN EXCELLENT WORK.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I, through the JOURNAL, ask some of your readers to send me their cast-off uniform dresses? This is a Babies' Home, with 68 children, of ages varying from a few months to 14 years. It is becoming increasingly difficult to make both ends meet, owing to the increased cost of living, and to taxation, present and to come. Experience shows what serviceable bibs, pinafores and overalls, can be made from old uniform; and gifts of this from your readers would afford much appreciated help.

Yours faithfully,
ELLEN B. KINGSFORD,
Hon. Sec.

Fallow Corner Home for Homeless Children,
North Finchley, N.

[Miss Kingsford, who is a member of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, and was formerly Matron of the Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland Road, N.E., is well-known to many of our readers, who, we feel sure, will be glad to help the excellent work in which she is engaged, in the manner she suggests.—ED.]

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