

## 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 your cheque, value 5s., for this week's Prize Competition.

Believe me, yours faithfully,

ELIZABETH MARTIN.

Royal Halifax Infirmary.

## A KIND OFFER.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—My work of selling THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING in the Exhibition Hall, last week, was both interesting and amusing. My chief impression resulting from my experience is this: If nurses (trained and in training), fully grasped the important fact, that it is a *professional* journal, in contra-distinction from the lay-edited unprofessional nursing papers, they would subscribe to it very much more than they do. Among the large number that passed my pitch, some were stupid, others were apathetic, and others were really glad to be enlightened. Among the latter were some quite young nurses, beginning their training. I laid hands on these, took them aside, and gave them some real good motherly advice—showing them the duty and advantage to themselves of supporting a professional journal. If this should meet the eye of any of those nurses, I should like to tell them that it would give me much pleasure to send the JOURNAL (post free) to six of them for three months, on condition that they will continue to subscribe to it, from the office, for another nine months. By that time they will have learnt to appreciate it, and will not be able to do without it. By this means, too, I shall be able to test the strength of purpose of those who seemed to be really interested. Awaiting the reply of my six converts,

I remain, yours very truly,

10, Coliseum Terrace, BEATRICE KENT.  
Regent's Park, N.W.

[We thank Miss Beatrice Kent for her practical interest in the professional work of this JOURNAL. ED.]

## EVIL EFFECTS OF THE INSURANCE ACT IN IRELAND.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The National Insurance Act is thoroughly unpopular in Ireland, and the injury we shall suffer from it will not stop at paying the tax. Already the hospitals anticipate a disastrous decrease in financial support from the public; and in considering ways and means, are already proposing to increase the out-staff, that is their

private nurses—so as to increase their revenue. This means more work diverted from those of us who work outside charitable institutions, and seems most unjust and unfair. Whilst sympathising with the financial troubles of our hospital committees, I do resent a class of working women, as we are, being called upon to pay more of this Insurance tax than we are compelled to do by law.

Yours truly,

A DUBLIN NURSE.

## THE POWER OF THE PRESS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

Scuola Convitto,

Policlinico, Rome.

DEAR MADAM,—On behalf of some of the suffragist nurses working at the above institution I beg to tender our sincere thanks for your splendid work in relation to obtaining the release of brave Nurse Pitfield.

You may know how keenly I have felt upon this subject, when I add that she was personally known to my sister, who, at the present time, is suffering an honourable imprisonment in the same cause.

I beg to remain, faithfully yours,

IDA L. BURKITT.

## REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Sister Owen.*—Many sisters have the same experience, they answer numberless advertisements for matrons' posts and are seldom selected candidates unless they have some local interest. Our advice is to step from being a sister to an assistant matronship; hold this post until experience gives confidence, and then apply for a matronship. You will have a much greater chance of success.

*C. F. M.*—Do not accept work under an unprofessional person. Friction is sure to arise sooner or later.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR MAY.

*May 18th.*—Give some hints how to be popular as a Private Nurse?

*May 25th.*—What meals should be served in hospital wards daily; how, so that they reach the patient in an appetising form?

## NOTICES.

## AN IMPORTANT POST AT BRUSSELS.

We call the attention of our readers, who are thoroughly conversant with French, to the vacant post, notified in our Advertisement Supplement, for a Superintendent of Nurses at the Hospital of St. John, Brussels, where a new training school for nurses has recently been established. It should prove an interesting sphere of work.

A form of application for a voucher for cheap railway tickets to and from the Exhibition and Conference, to open at Bristol on June 6th, organised by the Nurses' Social Union, will be found on page 1 of our advertisements.

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