

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.

LITTLE CUCKOO FLOWER.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Your pitiful story of little Cuckoo Flower moved me greatly. I am not ashamed to confess that I wept over it, remembering a little child I knew who shared the same fate.

Although I do not always appreciate the methods of the militant suffragettes, I am a firm believer in Votes for Women, who will see to it when they get into power that a check is put on the production of degenerates, and that the brutes who defile little children do not escape with a pebble around their necks instead of the millstone which Christ assigned to them.

Please accept £5 towards the fund for women's votes, and believe me,

Yours faithfully,

GRACE BAXTER, R.N.

Ospedale Gesù e Maria,
Naples.

[We are deeply touched and delighted by the appreciation and generosity of our kind correspondent.—ED.]

NO DIRECT REPRESENTATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—To the least intelligent person it must be abundantly clear that to have no political status is to be out of the running. I have carefully read the correspondence between yourself—representing the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland—and the officers of the National Health Insurance Commission, and I am amazed at the stupidity and unfairness of your correspondents, who, in spite of your clear explanation of the difference between the representatives of a charitable institution, which employs nurses, and of self-governing societies of nurses, still refuse to give us representation on the Advisory Committee.

There is no body of professional women of more service to the community than trained nurses—the scope of their work is almost boundless. They are at present engaged in eight different branches of social service. All in the service of the State, of two of which the State makes *direct* use. The implication is clear—take all and give nothing. I see the Act does not limit the number of women who may be appointed on the Advisory Committee, so it is not too late to put further pressure upon the Insurance Commissioners, one of whom is a medical man, and who will surely sympathise with trained nurses in

their claim to just independent representation. May I suggest that a petition signed by influential members of the nursing profession, both in England, Scotland, and Ireland, be sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer asking for the same degree of representation as has been accorded to all other classes of professional and industrial women workers, who are to be compulsorily insured. I shall be pleased to help to organise the petition.

I am, yours truly,
BEATRICE KENT.

IRISH NURSES AND DIRECT REPRESENTATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Thank you for placing our just demands before the English Commissioners with so much force and lucidity. As I wrote you before, the Irish Nurses' Association took up this question of representation on the Advisory Committee, Ireland, and the local Health Committees months ago, and their representations received scant courtesy, and now, to add insult to injury, I see that Mr. Joseph A. Glynn, Chairman of the Irish Commissioners, when presiding in Dublin at the first meeting of the Irish National Insurance Commission, is reported to have said: "In the appointment of the Advisory Committee, Irish Commissioners had endeavoured to give fair representation to every body of persons interested!" Is it presumable, therefore, that trained nurses are not interested in the working of this so-called Health Act, and if not, why not? Any way, everyone of us poorly paid as we are, will be taxed, and when the time comes will be called upon to do all the hardest and worst paid part of the work. Fewer persons of quality and leisure, and more of the workers would have given "fairer" representation in my humble opinion.

"WIGS ON THE GREEN."

PREVENTION OF CHILD MORTALITY. OVERLAPPING OF EFFORT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—We are informed by a circular issued last week from Glasgow, that a proposal is on foot to form a National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality and the Promotion of the Welfare of Children under School Age.

We desire to call attention to the fact that a national organisation of this description is already at work. This body is a special department, known as the Association of Infant Consultations and Schools for Mothers, of the National League for Physical Education and Improvement. The work which has been carried out by the League since its formation in 1905 includes: (1) The co-ordination and extension of already existing health-promoting agencies, and the formation of others where none exist; and (2) The promotion of fresh legislation where necessary.

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