

## 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.*

## A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM GERMANY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MY DEAR EDITOR,—To you and all British Nurses, especially to my dear JOURNAL friends, a Happy New Year. I am waiting for a reply from the Minister of the Education Department before making definite arrangements for our Nursing Congress, but hope to write soon.

Very truly yours,

Cologne.

AGNES KARLL.

## GREETINGS FROM FINLAND.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—In delightful anticipation of the next number of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, I want to send you my very best wishes for the New Year, when we hope to have the pleasure of seeing you again at the head of your army of Nurses at the Congress at Cologne.

Very sincerely yours,  
SOPHIE MANNERHEIM.

Helsingfors.

## GREETINGS FROM BASUTOLAND.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—Just a line to convey love and greetings for Christmas time to all old friends to whom I am unable to write individually. A most successful New Year to your dearest endeavours is the wish of

Yours ever sincerely,

Mohales Hoek.

JANE C. CHILD.

## COMPULSORY FEVER TRAINING FOR REGISTRATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In your issue of the 23rd ult., Dr. P. H. Robertson expresses the opinion that "neither the S.N.A., nor its President, holds that fever training should be compulsory for all nurses." I am very glad to know that Dr. Robertson is of this opinion, but I fear his remark that I have "been misled, quite excusably, by the newspaper report of Sir William Macewen's remarks at the Annual Meeting of the Scottish Nurses' Association," held on November 23rd, can hardly be regarded as conclusive. It was reported by the Press—Scottish daily as well as professional—that Sir William Macewen said: "The fever nurses had occupied a considerable part of the report, because the Association had tried to put their training on such a footing that it would be acknowledged as a certain part of the education

that the State would insist upon all nurses undergoing." I am responsible for the italics. How can this sentence, in which there does not appear to me to be any ambiguity, be construed otherwise than that fever nursing should be part of the training required before a nurse can be registered by the State? It is in a subsequent sentence that Sir William Macewen emphasises the point that fever training should count as part medical training.

As I have remarked, the report appeared in the daily, as well as the professional Press, it has gone far and wide, without (so far as I am aware) contradiction. It has, I have reason to know, caused a good deal of very adverse criticism, not only among nurses, but among the general public who are favourable to the passing of an Act for the State Registration of Nurses.

I am, yours faithfully,

E. A. STEVENSON,  
Member of the Scottish  
Nurses' Association.

Bay View, Johnshaven,  
Kincardineshire.

## BACHELORS AND THE BIRTH-RATE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am much interested in the correspondence on the above subject. I agree with Jessie Harvey—how can a man give judgment on such a subject? I am one of twelve children; seven of whom died in infancy; of the remaining five, the eldest was thirteen years, the youngest thirteen months, when our mother died also. My father believes that children are a gift from the Lord; well, so they may be, but a mother is a greater gift, and we five had no one to take her place. I contend it is better to have a small family, and live for them and with them, than die an early death through keeping up the birth-rate. Jessie Harvey is one of my ideal mothers, and I hope she will not kill herself by having a large family, though I ought to take an interest in a high birth-rate, being a

MATERNITY NURSE.

## COTTAGE NURSES IN IRELAND.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—A letter on Cottage Nursing appears in your last issue, signed by the President of the United Irishwomen.

It seems incredible that a body of women, who are doing such excellent work in many ways, can be aware of the wrong they are committing by introducing half-trained women to act as nurses for the sick poor. We matrons who have been fully trained know that the first three months' training gives but the merest smattering of knowledge, and we also understand what harm may be done through ignorance, and what real danger to life lies in incompetent nursing. The fact that a doctor is often 30 miles away from his patients forms the strongest plea that these poor sick

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