

## 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.*

## "THE NURSE AS PIONEER."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Your interesting editorial, "The Nurse as a Pioneer," leads me to trespass once more upon your space.

It is possible that some of your readers do not know that there is a society of nurses which has come into existence in response to the need with which your article deals.

The Nurses' Social Union is "a Union to maintain the highest ideals of the Nursing Profession as a branch of Social Service," and the first three "Methods" mentioned in the "Constitution" are as follows:—

1. The provision of facilities for Post-Graduate Instruction and the study of Social Questions.
2. The promotion of co-operation between the different branches of the Nursing Profession.
3. The encouragement of a wide outlook by providing opportunities for meeting others interested in various forms of Social Work.

The founders of the Nurses' Social Union recognised that the ever-increasing volume of social endeavour must lose a great proportion of its power unless co-operation and sympathy between the many labourers increased along with it. They realised that the Nursing profession must always be in the forefront of Social Service, and formed the Union, not only with the object of uniting the many branches of the Profession itself, but also of bringing its members into touch with other forms of social work.

Passing from general principles to the practical point to which your article refers—namely, the need of training in Public Speaking—a Debating Class was started last winter by the London Division of the Nurses' Social Union.

The Union is spreading daily. We hope that eleven new branches will be formed in various parts of England before Christmas. I take this opportunity of asking all who have not already joined our Union to do so before the year has passed away. Then 1913 shall find us all working together for the fuller equipment of the "Pioneer."

Faithfully yours,

ANNIE E. BARNES,  
Central Secretary Nurses' Social Union.

## ANOTHER VICTIM.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I read a letter signed by "A Victim of Same," with sympathy. I am a village nurse, and also feel that I have been unjustly treated by the County Nursing Association. I

am a small farmer's daughter, and have some education—quite enough, I think, to have gone through a good three years' training and passed exams. It seems most unfair that we ignorant country girls, as far as nursing is concerned, should be so misled by ladies of social standing who must know we are not being properly trained by their system. I intend, when my time is up, to enter a hospital for a real training; but if I had been well advised I should now be a trained nurse, instead of doing work which I have no knowledge for. All through Wales this bad system is being supported by those who ought to know better. It seems there should be some place women could get good advice before being trained as nurses.

I am,

ANOTHER VICTIM.

## THE REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am all for certificated nurses Nursing Homes. I have worked with many incapable probationers, and it should not be possible for matrons of Homes to charge for skilled nursing and employ such.

Yours truly,

MEMBER LONDON CO-OP.

## A DAY'S PAY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I think your suggestion for a Nurses' International Memorial of Miss Florence Nightingale as our great teacher will meet with approval, and a day's pay would be an excellent basis for the collection. Those earning little would thus give little, and no one nurse would give much. For instance, my salary is £35, so my contribution would be under two shillings; the majority of probationers would therefore only pay from sixpence to a shilling. But all the little sums would roll up and we should soon have a fine amount. I am ready to send mine. Write as soon as the Fund is organised.

Yours truly,

A HOSPITAL SISTER.

[As soon as Miss Dock (hon. sec. I.C.N.) arrives in New York she will issue a short statement and suggestions about this Fund. Each country can then organise.—Ed.]

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS—OCTOBER.

October 5th.—Describe a case of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, and how you have seen it treated.

October 12th.—What is Cataract? How would you prepare for an operation for its removal?

October 19th.—What would you consider an efficient curriculum for the training of a midwife?

October 26th.—Describe the modern management of Scarlet Fever.

We would remind our readers that they can help THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING by dealing as far as possible with advertisers in the paper.

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