

## 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.*

## ONE DAY'S PAY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—What a splendid suggestion for a Nurses' International Memorial to Miss Nightingale, that each nurse should give one day's pay.

As soon as the scheme is published in our real Nursing, educational BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, where we look for, and find, all the nursing news we care to know, I will send my one day's pay.

H. C. SADLIER  
(A Private Nurse.)

Danby-on-Yore.

(At the meeting of the National Council of Nurses, to be held in London in November, it is probable that a sub-committee will be formed to carry out the scheme in this country, and we hope the "one day's pay" will commend itself to nurses generally.—ED.)

## NURSES AND PUBLIC HEALTH WORK.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I ask your readers' opinion on the subject of "Nurses and Public Health Work." Is "a little knowledge a dangerous thing" still, or is it considered by some Public Health Authorities a most desirable thing, as evidenced by their almost systematic rejection of women trained as nurses and possessing the very necessary knowledge of the conditions under which working people live and the best way to approach them?

Both as a district nurse and health visitor I have repeatedly come across decent working people who strongly object to "ladies" having no knowledge of nursing, or practical experience with infants, coming to their houses and criticising the upbringing of their children. Also another frequent objection is that "bits of girls" are so often sent to "advise."

I could only inwardly sympathise, and wonder how such people dare take on their shoulders the responsibility of the nation's future health. In these days most people are agreed that the proper care of infants and young children is one of the most important assets of the nation. Therefore, why is it that most often a woman who can cycle, or a woman who admits she has learned all her knowledge of infants from books, or has attended a course of lectures on the subject, is chosen instead of those whose lives have been spent in gaining practical knowledge and experience, and who have entered on this special work, realising the necessity and importance of such work being well done.

I hope by opening a discussion on the subject we may help and enlighten others who intend to become Health Visitors.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

## ICHABOD.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—(1) In the centre of the town is a wine shop, where is sold a malted wine. A "nurse" in indoor uniform (except cap) is in charge of that department.

(2) A little Surrey church, famous for its number of cyclists attending the evening service; constant annoyance caused by misbehaviour of some girls; Vicar's wife at last leaves her seat and reprimands a girl in brown nurse's dress—veil, strings (dirty white) and all complete, uncovered hands, dirty nails, and behaviour to match.

(3) Cab arrives at Infirmary; received at the "House" by officials in nurses' indoor uniform (complete) bringing a woman in labour, in full nurse's uniform in (and outdoor), addressed as nurse by cabman and matron.

Surely something should be possible to prevent the degradation of our uniform. Nurses do not go for much in Surrey, which is over-run with Cottage Nurses; and really, when such things are done as above, it is no wonder. But the last scene stirred us all to wrath and indignation.

QUEEN'S NURSE.

## REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. M. W., Leamington (*Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service*).—The minimum training which qualifies a nurse for service in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service is:—"A certificate of three years' training and service in medical and surgical nursing in a civil hospital having not less than 100 beds." The unfortunate inclusion of the words "and service" makes it possible to admit nurses with certificates of two years' training only, but who may have "served" a hospital, presumably as a private nurse for profit, as at the London Hospital. It is high time the term of three years' training, and the value of a certificate for such was protected by making it compulsory for those admitted to this Government service to possess it.

*Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service*.—Minimum qualification is a certificate for at least three years' training in a civil hospital in the United Kingdom.

*The Territorial Nursing Service*.—The qualification is a certificate of three years' training in a general hospital or Poor Law infirmary.

## 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.

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