

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.

TRAINING AND SERVICE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Trained nurses who have completed a three years' term of training in the wards of a leading hospital, will be grateful for the straight way in which you have dealt in last week's issue with the present standard for those admitted to Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. It is felt by those of us who have passed through a three years' systematic training and been certified after examination, a great injustice upon the part of the War Office to depreciate the value of our certificate by substituting the word "service" for "training," and thus making it possible for those who are certificated after two years' work at the London Hospital to compete with us on equal terms. There should be the minimum certificate for all. Moreover, many desirable women will not enter the Service so long as this injustice prevails.

I am, yours faithfully,
A MEMBER BART'S LEAGUE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—A connection of mine has been a staff nurse in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service for a number of years. She holds a certificate for three years' training at one of the largest London hospitals, and a staff nurse she will probably remain. Women with inferior qualifications, and less experience, are constantly promoted over her head, and there is a strong feeling *sub-rosa* in many military hospitals that without "a friend at Court" there is little hope of promotion. It is only at her earnest request that I have not written to the Secretary of State for War on this matter. In my opinion it is nothing less than a scandal that the three senior posts in the Service have been secured to ladies trained in the one hospital where the standard undermines that of every reputable School for Nurses in the Kingdom. I hope this matter will receive the publicity it deserves.

Yours sincerely,
A LOVER OF JUSTICE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—I am glad to see the standard of Military Nursing under discussion. As you say, it is high time that Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service was brought up to date and a certificate of Three Years' Training made obligatory. After working at home and abroad for years I resigned, as promotion appeared

to be the perquisite of one hospital in particular. Let us hope the Secretary of State for War will look into this question. Merit alone should secure promotion, and we do not believe there is "a fair field and no favour" at present.

A list of those who hold office as Matrons and Sisters with their training schools attached might be published to allay suspicion. We know that the three senior and best paid posts in the Service are at present held by Londoners; the Hon. Sydney Holland, Chairman of that Hospital, and a member of the Nursing Committee of Q.A.I.M.N.S., has told us so.

Yours gratefully,
ONE WHO HAS SERVED HER COUNTRY
AT HOME AND ABROAD.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The injustice of the two years term of training at the London does not only injure those trained in other schools, but many of us as well. I should much like to have put in a third year in the wards to get into the Army Nursing, but was compelled, according to my agreement, to do private nursing for two years, and thus become disqualified for promotion in many ways. Many of us realise that only by Registration can we hope for equality with others, and a just system. Our work is far too lucrative as at present arranged. We ought to be protected by law, as other women workers are.

Yours truly,
SUFFRAGIST.

[Letters on this question are unavoidably held over.—ED.]

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F. N. B., London.—"A History of Nursing," by Miss Nutting and Miss Dock, should be in every nurse's library—it is a work of genius. Price £1 1s., 2 vols. Published by Putnam's Sons, 24, Bedford Street, W.C.

Miss Dock is now correcting proofs of the third and fourth volumes, which bring the history of nursing up to date.

Miss Grace Campling, Brighton.—Write to Miss Emma Nixon, c.o. Editor *Pacific Coast Journal of Nursing*, 1143, Leavenworth Street, San Francisco, Cal., U.S.A., and ask her for the information. The publishing address of *The American Journal of Nursing* (a monthly journal) is J. B. Lippincott Co., 227-231, South Sixth Street, Philadelphia, Penn., U.S.A. Subscription price, two dollars a year.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS—OCTOBER.

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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