

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 INCREASED COST OF LIVING.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In spite of the increased cost of living, I am of opinion that trained private nurses would suffer if fees were raised. As it is they cost their employers more, as food, rent, taxes, &c., have all risen of late years. As long as they are in work that is the great need, but many are so long between cases, owing to the competition of the semi-trained, and hospital staffs, that until there is a prescribed standard there is no hope even of getting the work they ought to have. The Nurses' Homes may have to raise their charges, as since I opened a Home my expenses have risen enormously, and the rates nearly doubled. All food costs more, also service and washing. This nurses do not take into consideration. As competition is so keen in the nursing world, the question is, what shall we all do in the future if living in this country continues to rise? The young should emigrate; women are still wanted in the colonies, as it is difficult for men to make money without women to do the drudgery, and that, it would seem, is all we workers are fit for. One grows very dour in these days—the constant insult to one's sex in every newspaper one opens and the seeming hatred of men for women who are not dumb dependants, is having a very serious effect upon one's spirits and belief in human justice, and as the clergy as a cloth are more narrow and intolerant than any other class of men, where the uprising of women is concerned, one has no real spiritual consolation from them to help to bear this weight of oppression.

Yours truly,

A TIRED WOMAN.

NATIONAL CANINE DEFENCE LEAGUE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—We thank you most heartily for urging your readers to help us to secure the release of dogs from vivisection, and trust that many will write to us for copies of our Petition to Parliament, and also for leaflets on this subject, which will be sent post free anywhere.

We want to deliver dogs from their martyrdom in the laboratory, and everyone who sympathises with our object should write at once to

Yours truly,

C. R. JOHNS,
Secretary.

27, Regent Street, London, S.W.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. M. W., Leamington.—The British Nurses' Association was the first Association of Trained Nurses in any country to organise for registration. Its organisation was proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick at her private residence in November, 1887, and the Royal Charter was won in 1903, giving the nurses very wide powers for professional organisation—powers of which they were practically deprived by the medical members in 1907—when at their instigation the Bye-Laws were altered by the Privy Council. The first Registration Act was passed in 1891, since which time forty-one Acts of Parliament have been passed for the State Registration of Nurses—in our colonies, United States of America, Germany and Belgium. We were the first to work and plead for professional organisation. It is probable, owing to the unjust legal disqualifications from which women suffer in this country, that we shall be the last to receive legal status. Nothing could have been more sordid and tyrannical than the manner in which trained nurses have been treated by the anti-registration party in England, many of them wealthy hospital managers, who, unlike other employers, have unrestricted powers over the work and lives of the women they employ, and whose labour in many instances they exploit to a scandalous degree. You will find the Almanack of Registration in the Annual Report of the Society for State Registration of Nurses. Price 2d. Order from the Office, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

November 2nd.—In nursing a patient in a private house, what minor details would you observe in regard to the personal care of the patient in his or her surroundings in order to add to his comfort?

November 9th.—What would you prepare for an intravenous infusion, and what precautions would you take if assisting in its administration?

November 16th.—State successful methods of treatment for constipation?

November 23rd.—How should a nurse care for her hands so that they are kept in the best condition for use in the sick room?

November 30th.—What form of infection is likely to follow the retention of a piece of the placenta after delivery, and what are its characteristics?

NOTICES.

The Editor hopes that every reader who values THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, will get one or more new subscribers—so that its constructive work for the profession may receive ever increasing support.

It is the only journal which demands efficient educational and economic standards for trained nurses through an Act of Parliament, providing for their State Registration.

The price is 1d. weekly. Abroad, 9s. per year, post free. Office, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)