

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.

CHEAP NURSING AND SWEATED LABOUR.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I do hope Mr. Brukner's letter will call forth a few wholesome home truths on the sweating of district nurses, and how things have gone down all over the country since the Queen's Jubilee Institute for Nurses recognised insufficiently trained women as village nurses. In lowering the standard for the care of the sick poor, they have in my opinion betrayed their trust, and it is quite true that the miserable remuneration of village nurses is creating all over the country a hybrid worker, who is not only depreciating nursing standards, but underselling well-trained district nurses. Never should the Institute have permitted the laymen who control it to make it responsible for supporting a system which, if persisted in, will flood the country with another sweated class of women workers. To pay women responsible very often for the lives of poor people, a wage no domestic servant would accept, and then suggest they shall depend in part for the necessaries of life upon a "lady bountiful," is the acme of impertinence. Let the Q.V.J.I. reconsider its position. At present it is covering a very demoralising system by affiliating County Nursing Associations—from which the nursing profession is excluded from any authority—and encouraging a standard of remuneration for the workers thus supplied, insufficient for either comfort or cleanliness—especially the latter.

Yours faithfully,

A QUEEN'S NURSE.

QUACK NURSING FOR THE INSURED SICK IN SCOTLAND.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—In *The Scotsman* of November 4th there appears a report of a meeting of The Highlands and Islands Medical Commission, before which the Duchess of Montrose gave evidence as President of the Govan Nursing Institute regarding a system of "modified training of nurses" which Her Grace has been instrumental in establishing. The Duchess has apparently given glowing accounts of the work of these *quasi* nurses, which we must sincerely hope were taken with a grain of salt.

Nothing is more deplorable than the endeavour on the part of the so-called great to force upon the poor inferior nursing, to say nothing of the

presumption of people who are not qualified taking upon themselves the right and responsibility of inventing systems of nursing.

Some years ago a correspondence took place in *The British Medical Journal* and in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING which brought out very forcibly the extremely unsatisfactory methods of "training" carried out in the "Govan Nursing Institute."

No more gratuitous insult has ever been offered to the memory of Queen Victoria than the attempt on the part of some to force inferior articles in the nursing line upon the sick poor, whose welfare was near the great Queen's heart. Members of the medical profession who wink at this are much to blame. They should consider the good of their patients before what is to please their patrons. We cannot believe that the bulk of the medical profession like to have their patients badly nursed, but they do not take active steps to stamp out, by simply refusing to countenance, nursing quackery.

I am, Madam,

Yours, &c.,

SCOTTISH NURSE.

[The Scottish Branch of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, under the conscientious superintendence of Miss Cowper, has strenuously opposed what we have heard very aptly termed "depreciation by Duchesses." Let us hope it will continue to do its duty in this connection.—ED.]

OUR CHRISTMAS COMPETITION.

TOYS FOR TINIES.

Four Five Shilling Prizes will be awarded in December for the best toys made at the cost of not more than 6d. The toys must be sent to the Editorial Office, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W., by December 14th, with the coupon which will appear in the issue of December 7th. All the toys will be distributed to poor children under five years of age, so they should be made to meet the tastes of tinies.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

NOVEMBER.

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?

DECEMBER.

December 7th.—What is cholera, its symptoms, the treatment usually prescribed, and the nursing points to be observed?

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.

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