

## 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 REGISTRATION FEE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have often heard nurses say "I'm against State Registration because I should have to pass another examination and pay £5 5s." I was pleased to see in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING report of the Matrons' Council Meeting at Wigan that you made it quite plain that the Registration Bill is not retrospective, and that in fact "all reputable trained nurses" might register during the three years' term of grace without further examination for the fee of £2 2s. And further that, after the term of grace, before registration all nurses would have the great advantage of competing in a one-standard examination (as provided by the Midwives Act for Midwives), and if successful would be granted the protected title of "Registered Nurse," and that the examination fee of £3 3s. would provide them "with the highest standard of medical and nursing examiners."

What a change is here. Do not many of us know how casual is both the teaching and examination as at present conducted, and what a tremendous effect it would have on nursing if the one portal could be instituted, and we could know what we had to learn, and that we should be efficiently instructed? I think a fee of £5 5s. for examination and registration very little to pay for the benefits to be received. Personally, I have spent much more on private supplementary study, before I felt fit to face the nursing of all sorts of patients in private nursing. My C.M.B. cost me £20, with fees and books. We seldom hear a nurse grumble at the fees from £15 to £30 to be paid for studying for the C.M.B., but because she gets her general nursing free, the fact of being called upon to pay £5 5s. for legal status as a general nurse appears superfluous. It might be if it ended there, but it does not. At present a four years' certificate from a leading training school stands for very little in the open market. Any one trained or untrained stands elbow to elbow with the certificated nurse, and charges equal fees from an exploited public.

This has been distinctly demonstrated by the army appointments, the Bart's Matronship, the untrained women who have dashed off to the Balkans, raw probationers used in nursing homes, the "mill hand" as cottage and village nurse in competition with the highly skilled Queen's Nurse, and inspected by the same officials; no representative on the Advisory Committee of the Insurance Commission, no trained Matron on the

British Red Cross Committee, or on the Council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute. This is how nursing experts are ignored at present. In fact, lack of professional experience is apparently the only qualification demanded, to fit men and women to compose those bodies, deputed to organise and supervise our skilled work!

How long are we going to submit to it? We are skilled professional workers, and our standards and our economic interests are the sport of persons who have never done one honest day's bread-winning, or, so far as many women are concerned, rate-paying, in their lives.

Surely every nurse worth her salt would be willing to pay £5 5s. for the incalculable advantage of providing for a Central Governing Body, largely elected by the profession themselves, which would understand their professional needs, and further them. Both in the interests of the sick and those who spend years of their lives in qualifying themselves to nurse them, I for one would willingly pay much more. It would be cheap in comparison with the price we now pay.

Yours truly,

MEMBER R. N. S.

### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editor begs to thank several old friends for their very kind letters sent to the JOURNAL referring to the happy event to take place on December 14th. It is not because she does not appreciate their sentiments that they are withheld from publication, but because a becoming editorial modesty naturally demands it!

### 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.

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

*December 14th.*—Describe the treatment of Rodent Ulcer.

*December 21st.*—How would you amuse a convalescent child aged 5 to 8 years isolated with infectious disease?

*December 28th.*—What symptoms would lead you to suspect apoplexy? Give nursing treatment of apoplexy.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)