

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.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was surprised and very delighted to find I had got the prize for the Weekly Competition in your paper. Thank you very much for the cheque just received.

Yours sincerely,

LUCIE MAULTON.

Nurses' Home,
St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.

A PRACTICAL SUGGESTION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—As a member of the nursing profession, and one who has been the Matron of a Nursing Home for over thirteen years, and started her career twenty-five years ago, I wish to enter a most emphatic protest against the statement made by Lord Salisbury, when speaking at the Medical School of Guy's Hospital, on Thursday, in last week.

It seems to me that the time has arrived when it is necessary for the owners of the nursing homes in this country to associate themselves together for mutual protection. The object would be that every nursing home throughout the Kingdom would be approached by the representative of the association, and careful enquiries made into its methods and general standing, and only approved nursing homes of good repute would be allowed to become members.

The association should publish a periodical and a list of the members at regular intervals. The chief object of the association would be to show the public what nursing homes were above suspicion in every way; and a register should be kept of fees charged, &c. The association could also act as a medium through which changes and sales of nursing homes could be conducted. Legal and accountancy advice would be given to the members, at low figures. All advertising to be prohibited.

I should be glad if any interested in this letter of mine would write to me, and give me their help in forming an Association for the protection of the good name of our Nursing Homes.

Yours, &c.,

1, Nottingham Place, LILLIE M. STOWER.
London, W.

[As a step towards the Registration of Nursing Homes, we heartily support Miss Stower's practical suggestion.—Ed.]

THE MATERNITY BENEFIT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I agree with your correspondent that it is hard on married women, and on those unmarried women, who require no maternity benefit, if the mothers of illegitimate children are to come on insurance societies as well as to receive payment for the expenses incidental to the birth of their children under the bastardy laws, for in that case the unmarried mothers are the best off, and the married and single women have to pay for the maternity benefit in the case of illegitimate births.

I may further point out that it has been authoritatively stated that domestic servants past the age of child-bearing may not exchange this benefit for any other, such as increased sickness, invalidity, or pension benefit. Certainly funds must be found now to finance this obnoxious Act, but why should the women always pay, pay, pay so heavily?

Yours faithfully,

TRAINED NURSE.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Several Nurses "on their own."—The Insurance Commissioners have decreed that it will be necessary for nurses working on their own account as private nurses to be insured. They add:—"The only case generally in which a nurse will not have to be insured is the case where she receives patients into her own home for treatment." It will be well, if possible, to present the card for the patient to stamp at opportune times, although as the contract of service is usually a weekly one, the stamps must be cancelled weekly.

Anxious, London.—We believe the point is still under the consideration of the Insurance Commissioners, and that the London County Council is pressing for a decision.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

FOR JULY.

July 27th.—What are the common sources of bacterial infection?

FOR AUGUST.

August 3rd.—What points would you observe on the admission of a new patient to a ward, and why?

NOTICE.

THE TRAINED NURSES' FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS.

Miss Mollett, Hon. Secretary, will be at 431, Oxford Street, W., daily, and will be pleased to give all information possible to those desiring to join a Friendly Society of professional nurses.

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