

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.

GREETINGS FROM MISS L. L. DOCK TO "THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

TO THE EDITOR,—Twenty-five separate praises, blessings, cheers, and good wishes for THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING—the first militant paper, the first permanent professional journal of nursing, the fearless, the intrepid, the undaunted beleaguerer of the citadel of reactionaries who stand for the subjection of nurses as a part of the general subjection of women! May success soon crown your life of unstinted giving to the cause of humanity and civilisation! May you soon see the enfranchisement of women, bringing with it a new dignity and larger scope for all, and including in its reach the professional honour and rightful legal status of the Trained Nurse—one of England's most precious assets, of which an obtuse Government does not know the value. Stupid clay cannot long hold back the glorious forces of England's womanhood.

L. L. Dock.

New York.

[This letter, immensely valued by the Editor, arrived just too late for insertion in the Silver Jubilee Number last week.—Ed.]

GREETINGS FROM LA GARDE-MALADE. HOSPITALIÈRE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

DEAR MADAM,—*La Garde-Malade Hospitalière* wishes her elder sister, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, many happy returns of the day and congratulates her on attaining her Silver Jubilee.

What was English nursing like twenty-five years ago? I feel sure that it was better than the average French nursing to-day.

Eighteen years ago I was a new probationer at the London Hospital. I was surprised to find everything so nice and I am sure that the new generation would not be satisfied with what we had. A day off beginning at 10 a.m. once a month and no resentment felt if we were put on night duty just before it was due. I don't mean by that that we were angelic and never criticized anything. For my part, the first day I was in the hospital, I was shocked at the nurses taking tea in the ward. I little dreamed that years later I should consider myself perfectly happy if the only thing that a new probationer found fault with was tea in the ward. I wonder how many English nurses would continue to work if obliged to live in the same surroundings as their French sisters?

I wonder how many realize that they have such comfortable accommodation, thanks to hundreds of people who by their influence, pen or nursing experience, have fought for the rights of the suffering poor and ignorant probationer? How many realize that it is their duty to put their shoulder to the wheel for the good of the younger generation? It is thus they can express their thanks to those who have worked so hard to prepare the way and won so many victories up till now.

It is to be hoped that when THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING celebrates its Golden Jubilee French hospitals will have at least improved their management to the standard now reached in England.

CATHERINE ELSTON,
(Collaborateur).

Algiers.

SAN FRANCISCO, 1915.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—How are we poor English nurses to get to San Francisco? It is impossible, if it will cost from £80 to £100. I do hope when the National Council Committee begins to consider ways and means, some cheap trip will be, if possible, arranged. Nearer the time the cheapest rates will be issued, and then there may be some hope for us.

Yours truly,
ONE WHO LONGS TO GO.

[Our correspondent may depend that every effort will be made to reduce the expenses, through the co-operation of members of the International Council, but, from statistics of cost available at present, for a comfortable pleasure trip to San Francisco and back, from London, remaining two weeks in the city—the least cost will be £80. A tramp steamer and a colonists' car may sound amusing, but they are not so in reality. We know of some nurses who intend to go to Canada next year, and hope by private nursing to earn sufficient to go to San Francisco in comfort. This sounds quite a good idea.—Ed.]

NURSES PLEASE SPEAK OUT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—There is at present before Standing Committee B. of this House, a measure entitled "A Bill to Amend the Law with respect to Bankruptcy and Deeds of Arrangement."

As the law now exists under the Preferential Payment in Bankruptcy Act of 1888, there shall be paid in priority to all other debts, certain rents, rates, salaries or wages of clerks, servants, workmen, &c. To these classes entitled to priority I sought to add—without success—the fees due to professional nurses. I instanced cases where, after prolonged attendance on a patient, they were obliged to accept a compensation of 2s. in the £, the same as an ordinary trade debtor. I am

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