

## 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 PRICE OF PROFESSIONAL PROBITY.**

*To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.*

DEAR MADAM,—Indeed the mighty are fallen, when a tradesman dare offer nurses One Penny to recommend his goods, and at the same time betray professional confidence. But really it is not so surprising when one sees the type of woman who now wears uniform and calls herself "Nurse."

If trained nurses more keenly realized that only State Registration will enable us to purge the profession of these undesirables and to raise nursing and nurses once again to the place once occupied in the regard of the public, they would understand the personal advantage it would be to render more help to you in the fight you have waged so unremittingly for so many years.

Sadly one must admit such insults are the result of the indifference of the rank and file to their best professional interests. Unfortunately the upright and honourable women in the profession suffer most keenly and the best women do not now take up nursing as their life's work.

I remain,  
Yours truly,

MARY BURR.

Villa Valaisanne,  
Montreux.

*To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.*

DEAR MADAM,—I read Miss Rider's letter in your last week's issue with much indignation. It seems almost incredible that any firm should have the audacity to send such printed matter around to trained nurses. Of course, any nurse receiving a free ticket of admittance to the Nursing and Midwifery Exhibition with the other enclosures would imagine the firm had some official connection with it. Surely the matrons who have given their names in support of this Conference will make some objection to the proceeding—and protect the profession from such insults. To be offered a penny commission for giving private information to tradespeople concerning private patients and their most sacred and intimate family concerns, is nothing short of an outrage, not only on professional honour, but upon decency. One realises from this occurrence how careful professional women should be where trade and professional affairs come into touch—and they have no right to give their names in support of movements well known to be run by commercial newspapers for profit, and for no other purpose. The exploitation of nursing and nurses should not be supported

by those who hold official nursing positions as the rank and file are the ultimate sufferers.

Yours truly,

H. HAWKINS.

New Southgate.

**NURSES PLEASE SPEAK OUT.**

*To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.*

DEAR MADAM,—I for one beg to thank Mr. White for his letter drawing the attention of nurses to "A Bill to Amend the Law with respect to Bankruptcy and Deeds of Arrangement," and for pointing out how unjustly nurses' claims are ignored in the Bill. I can speak with feeling, as, during my private nursing career, I and other nurses I know have lost fees entirely after weeks of hard work. But I fear, unless you rouse us up on the subject, not a word of protest will be made in our favour. These are the sort of questions which might well arise in our Dublin Conference under "The Law as it Affects Nurses." Perhaps by then the Bill will have become law, and, as usual, we nurses shall be out of it again.

Yours truly,

MEMBER R.N.S.

**THE MOTOR-CAR NURSE.**

*To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.*

DEAR MADAM,—We often hear nurses called "mere machines," but it remains for a Matron to suggest, as reported last week, in her scheme for registering Hospital Certificates, "that some such system would be adopted as is in use for the identification of motor-cars." Are we nurses responsible human beings, or are we not? The manner in which our intelligence and sentiments are ignored and insulted by the anti-registration people makes one wonder sometimes if we are constructed of wood or stone.

Thank you for drawing the attention of the profession to the dangers of this "Anti" scheme. Whoever may have read the paper at the Conference in London, we can guess who inspired it, and beware of it in consequence. I for one do not intend to be legislated for as if I was a motor-car, and I shall look for further guidance from our invaluable B.J.N. on this question. Whenever I note the proprietary nursing press advocating a special line of legislation for nurses I am warned off.

Yours gratefully,

A FLESH-AND-BLOOD NURSE.

**OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.**

*May 10th.*—What complication is most to be feared in diphtheria? How would you guard against it?

*May 17th.*—What is the chief danger in measles?

*May 24th.*—What are the signs before delivery that the child's life is in danger? What would you do in such a case?

*May 31st.*—Say what you know about epilepsy and its treatment.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)