

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.

"A PICK-ME-UP."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Hearty congratulations on the splendid Jubilee Number of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. It is a great help to have such a sane, progressive journal week by week; it acts as a useful "pick-me-up" after the frequently vapid, anti-everything-advanced character of the daily papers! Fight on and win.

GLADYS TATHAM.

Davos Platz.

AN EXPERT'S OPINION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Mr. Sydney Holland's letter in the *Daily Mail* is very characteristic. I pass over the statement of Dr. Chapple as to the London nurse who was sent out to nurse a private case at the end of one year and ten months' training; of that I have no knowledge. But Mr. Sydney Holland allows that at the London Hospital the full term of training for nurses is two years, and states that such length of time is sufficient.

Practically every other Hospital of any size or repute has accepted the three or four years' standard. Are Guys, St. Bartholomew's, St. George's, King's, Charing Cross, the Middlesex, the Royal Free, the Royal Infirmary (Edinburgh), the Royal Infirmary (Glasgow), the Royal Infirmary (Manchester), the General Hospital (Birmingham)—to name but a few that occur to me—all wrong and the London Hospital alone right? The contention that "the vast field for experience" given by the London renders a training as long as that offered at other Hospitals unnecessary easily falls to the ground. The larger the Hospital, the larger the nursing staff, and the difficulty, which every experienced Matron knows, of providing adequate experience for all the nurses in the special wards remains, by a quite simple sum in arithmetic, the same. For a probationer must pass a reasonable time in each ward if she is to gain any real and lasting benefit from her experience there. It is the extraordinary attention to detail in modern treatment that renders a training which seems long to a layman absolutely necessary to produce a good nurse. This has been recognised by the authorities of almost all Hospitals.

That Mr. Sydney Holland should wind up his letter with his usual spirited advertisement in praise of the London and all its ways and belongings is—only natural, but that he should use his weight and influence to champion the cause of eaction and mediocrity is more than a pity. It

is sincerely to be hoped that those in charge of the Registration Bill will steadily refuse to shorten the term of training required, which is none too long as it is.

Yours faithfully,

M. MOLLETT.

NO TIME FOR VOTELESS WOMEN'S CLAIMS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Having just read the account in *The Standard*—which paper I only get second day now, as I won't add to the circulation, since it acts as it does towards women—of the Deputation to the Prime Minister, I must congratulate you on having found Dr. Chapple as a champion of our cause. How splendidly he batted the Sydney Holland ball bowled by the Premier. The reply to our just demand for State Registration was to be expected, *there never is any time in Parliament to consider voteless women's claims.*

To an urgent appeal from Charing Cross Hospital I have replied that whilst men take all authority in the State, leaving women to be classed with idiots, lunatics, criminals and paupers, they must bear the whole responsibility for the deplorable state of affairs therein related. It is not only distressing, but disgraceful that hooligans and men of the most vicious type should be encouraged by the press and permitted by the police to assault, taunt, and insult in our parks and streets, the very women who are anxious to alleviate the suffering of the poor, and help by their expert knowledge and devotion to build up a healthier population. The present treatment of women in this country is a gross blot on civilisation.

Yours sincerely,

CLARA LEE.

Thistledown, Letchworth.

AN OLD LULLABY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I wonder if any of the readers of the JOURNAL can help me with the words of an old lullaby which the mothers of France used to sing to their babies at the time when the name of Wellington was a household word. The song threatens the baby that Wellington will fetch him if he does not cease his crying.

A MATERNITY NURSE.

Church Road,
Richmond, Surrey.

[We have never heard of this lullaby, but, if it was sung, England repaid the compliment, as its mothers threatened naughty children with "Boney" from over the water.—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

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.

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