

## 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.*

## PENSIONS THE ONLY REMEDY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I entirely agree with your criticism of this newspaper "Benevolent Scheme" for Queen's Nurses, and now that it has been made public, I feel sure many Queen's Nurses will object to carrying round begging cards to the public and paying a penny weekly for any such scheme for their own benefit. Why, if anything of the sort had to be done, could we not have it arranged through the *Queen's Nurses Magazine*, our own paper, and not through unprofessional publications? The whole thing savours of patronage. Surely Queen's Nurses know enough about business to know that these newspapers only start such schemes for commercial purposes, and that someone is going to exploit us as usual. For one thing, the paper in question will secure patronage over a professional class of women which it has no qualification for. It will thus increase its circulation, and in consequence secure increased income from advertisements. I am one of those prickly people who object to being advertised as a pauper, and I hope there are other Queen's Nurses who feel with me. What we need is a saving wage, as our Superintendents rightly have, and a small retiring pension as Navy and Army Nurses have. Why not? Our Council is the right body to see to just conditions for us, not the unprofessional papers.

Yours truly,  
A QUEEN'S NURSE.

## THE BOYCOTTING OF STATE REGISTRATION BY THE PRESS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I can quite support what "A Journalist Nurse" says about the boycotting of State Registration by the London daily Press. The fact is that so many hospitals spend large sums of public money in advertising, that it would not pay to insert the nurses' point of view, when those of the committee oppose it. It is all in a commercial nutshell—the system is quite understood. Thus for pelf are the public kept in ignorance of many questions. Women's Suffrage was treated thus for years and years; and it was only when it paid to insert reports concerning this burning question that the independent (?) press printed them. Those of us who are in the journalistic world know all these discreditable tactics. Watch the London Press, on the treatment of Bart's nurses; and see how many of them will touch

it, or attempt to help nurses in their struggle in the public interest.

Yours truly,  
A WOMAN JOURNALIST.

[Our experience is that of our correspondent. We are glad to note, however, that the *Standard*, *Daily News*, *Daily Herald*, *Pall Mall Gazette*, and *City Press* have the courage to ventilate this question.—ED.]

## BIGOTRY AT BART'S.

Many letters enclosing donations have been received which express the opinion that if women had the Vote nurses would soon be registered, which of course is true.

Miss Dinnie, Harrow, writes, "I beg to enclose 2s. from self and friend towards the fund for fighting the above. Very sorry it is not more, but every penny I can spare at present goes to the Suffrage Cause. It will be easy to get State Registration for Nurses once we have the Vote."

Miss Gladys Tatham writes from Davos, from her sofa, where much of her time is spent:—"I am taking special interest in this latest manifestation of bigotry on the part of the Bart's authorities, for once at \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital, we went through the same thing. The then matron and a few chosen spirits used to delight in talking anti-suffrage at meals. Gathering that they were mostly ignorant of what they were talking about, I proposed we might have a meeting in the Lecture Hall to discuss it. Several of the nurses were enthusiastic about it. But no, the Matron would not hear of our using the Hall for a meeting, so we reluctantly had to cave in. But speaking for myself, I was simmering with rebellion against what seemed an injustice. . . I look forward so much to the Saturday post bringing the JOURNAL."

Miss Amy Moore, London, W.C., writes:—"Why waste time and money trying to get professional justice for nurses? Nothing which will raise their status, or protect sick people from thieves, and worse, will be done until women have the Vote. The Bart's business is only on a par with the condition of nurses in many other hospitals. Bart's should have clung to its liberties when it had them, now it is too late."

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

*February 8th.*—How would you nurse a case of tracheotomy, and what is your practice in regard to the care of instruments and tracheotomy tubes in these cases?

*February 15th.*—Describe the daily and general care you would give to the mouth and hair of a helpless patient.

*February 22nd.*—How might a case of scarlatinal nephritis be recognized, and how should such a case be nursed?

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