

## 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.*

## AUTHENTIC INFORMATION REQUIRED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In the issue of 26th ult. I notice that Lady Gladstone said in opening the first King Edward Nurses' Home at Kroonstad: "I should like to give a special word of thanks to the *medical men* of South Africa who so kindly assisted us in drawing up our *rules and regulations for nurses*!"

Are there no expert nurses, sisters, matrons in the length and breadth of South Africa?

Will the lay Upper Ten never learn that *although* denied legal status, we really have got some intelligence in our composition and *are* capable of making rules and regulations for the conduct of the members of our own profession. I do not know if there are trained nurses on the Executive Committee, but I imagine not, or why should the doctors be thanked for making rules for another profession, and those most capable of doing so omitted?

Then in the letter on Ceylon, a "Former Sister" says: "The love of nursing . . . is seldom the motive of their coming to hospital, but only because they must earn their own living." Those who work in India know how heartbreakingly true that is. How *can* we make into any kind of "nurses," as we understand the word, girls who are either quite indifferent to, or dislike the work.

She continues that after two years' training, "she is transferred by Government to the charge of an out-station hospital. A most iniquitous proceeding, which it is to be hoped will soon be altered."

Now, if a "Former Sister" will kindly communicate her name, this is a matter that can be brought before our Conference of Trained Nurses and Superintendents of India in November, and a resolution sent to the Government of Ceylon. At least let us make our protest, and let me ask for any such authentic information that these evils may be rooted out, and that we may be proud of the profession in India.

Alas! there are many crying evils, lack of or wrong administration that will never be remedied until the Nursing Superintendents are given full control of their department and are not under the jurisdiction of whoever happens to be the doctor in charge.

Yours sincerely,  
S. GRACE TINDALL.  
(President, T.N.A., India.)

## NURSING POSTS IN THE COLONIES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—In your issue of July 26th I have read an interesting account of the Government Civil Hospital, Kandy, Ceylon, by "A Former Sister."

May I be allowed, in connection with this, through the medium of your paper, to add that all nurses for the Government Hospitals of Ceylon, as for those of the other Crown Colonies, are supplied through the Colonial Office on the recommendation of the Committee of the Colonial Nursing Association.

Any candidate wishing to apply for nursing posts in the Colonies, therefore, can receive full particulars of terms, conditions, climate, &c., by application to the Secretary, Colonial Nursing Association, Imperial Institute, S.W., who also gives personal interviews on Monday and Friday afternoons between 2 and 5 o'clock.

I am, yours faithfully,

A. M. MIDDLETON,

Secretary, Colonial Nursing Association,  
Imperial Institute, S.W.

## "THE NURSE IN GREY."

DEAR MADAM,—I beg to enclose a cutting from the *Daily Sketch*—which once more draws public attention to the disgraceful uses to which our uniform is subjected. No wonder trained nurses are beginning to refuse to wear outdoor uniform. I know from personal experience it by no means adds to one's popularity in public places. Let us hope something will soon be done to prevent not only our uniform, but our once honoured profession being held up to public opprobrium. It is an abominable shame that women have no power to protect their good name. What are the Matrons and Superintendents doing, not to come out in a body and help us to gain our legal status as they have done elsewhere, so that we can dissociate reputable nurses from such women as "Nurse Betty" and her colleagues? Yours truly,

A QUEEN'S NURSE.

[We have to thank several correspondents for cuttings of "The Nurse in Grey." We publish the story in full, and hope Captain Faber, M.P., will associate himself with the group of members who are supporting the demand of trained nurses for State Registration, and such power of self-government as will make it possible to prevent the use of nurses' uniforms by prostitutes, procuresses and abortionists. This will have to be done, or decent women will fight very shy of the nursing profession in the future.—ED.]

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

August 9th.—How would you nurse a case of acute nephritis?

August 16th.—What are the signs and symptoms of puerperal sepsis? How does the condition originate? What precautions would you take to prevent its occurrence?

August 23rd.—What are some of the conditions under which tracheotomy is performed? How would you prepare for the operation?

August 30th.—What is the most urgent emergency with which you have had to deal, and how did you meet it?

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