

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.

NURSES FOR A HOP-PICKERS' HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—At Watringbury, Kent, we have had during the last twelve years, in connection with the Church of England Hop-pickers' Missionary Association, an improvised hospital for the stranger-pickers, numbering some thousands, who work in this and an adjoining parish. It contains three or four beds for children, and has an out-patients' department in which from thirty to forty cases, more or less, are treated daily. It has been conducted by two resident nurses and a lady-help, and the local doctor gives his services.

This year we have been unable to find nurses, and we have before us the heartbreaking prospect of being unable to open. Our last hope is that this appeal may meet the eye of ladies who will volunteer to come to the rescue. We have usually had two fully-trained nurses, who, having been obliged to give up their work as a profession, have been glad to revive it temporarily in this way; but perhaps nurses in full work would be glad to spend their holiday in this way. A staff of one fully-trained nurse and one assistant or Red Cross could do the work. Of course, we pay all expenses, and could provide some one to do the cooking, &c., if no volunteer for the post of lady-help be forthcoming. The hospital ought to be opened on the 8th inst., and the work continues for at least a fortnight. Communications may be addressed to me, and a personal interview, whereby, if necessary to save time, fuller particulars could be obtained, would gladly be accorded by the London representative of our Association, Miss Harvey, 39, Kempsford Gardens, S.W. A telegram just received from Miss Harvey says nurses are also wanted elsewhere in the hop-picking districts.

G. M. LIVETT,
Vicar.

Watringbury Vicarage, Maidstone.

(We hope this appeal will not be made in vain.
—ED.)

WHEN WE GET REGISTRATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I thank Miss S. Grace Tindall for her very sympathetic letter about infirmly-trained nurses? We are run down so often, and as our work is really self-sacrificing if well done, it is pleasing to have a little praise and sympathy sometimes. When we get Registration we shall be able to help ourselves more; no doubt a Nursing Council interested in education will arrange surgical and other practical courses, which would be eagerly undertaken by those

infirmly nurses who feel the need of more experience. In the meantime, we need all the encouragement we can get.

Yours truly,

AN INFIRMARY SISTER.

"SHE DEVILS."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—It seems disgraceful that anyone should write to the papers describing trained nurses as "She-devils" and "insidious adventuresses." As one reads such letters one is naturally very indignant, but upon reflection I fear there must be some truth in the accusations. It is no good pretending nurses are popular as a class; they are not. I have been a private nurse for many years, and have been compelled to work with many ignorant and unscrupulous women. The marvel is how so many certificated nurses can be as ignorant and unmannerly as they are. The training in many hospitals must be far from high-class. I have recently been visiting a patient in one of our largest country hospitals, and just to sit and watch how things were done—the slap-dash methods, noise, and general lack of discipline made me shiver. I longed to complain, but feared to make mischief. What sort of nurses can be turned out of such a place? No wonder the public uses strong language when subjected to their handling. The Sister had no "h's," nor had her subordinates. The Staff Nurses talked of the Visiting Surgeon as "the old cock." Probationers gave and removed bed-pans without covers, preparing dressings between whiles! Knives and forks were kept in wooden lockers, being wiped on newspaper and returned to the locker unwashed. In making beds, the sheets and blankets were pitched on the dusty floor. The system of washing the patients was a mere lick-and-promise, the nails never being attended to, and the food was badly cooked and carelessly served. Everyone shouted, and stumped about in clumsy shoes and banged doors. If I had been ill and in pain I think "She-devil" would have been the description I should have been inclined to give of some of these uncouth women. The worst of it was that everyone (excepting the poor patients) appeared quite satisfied with the system, and I was informed "Matron objects to Registration, as it would place all nurses in one standard, and stultify all real progress"! I wondered what an expert Nursing Inspector would have reported of the standard of nursing in practice at this terribly-mismanaged institution.

Yours truly,

C. S. M.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

September 20th.—Why is dust dangerous in a sick room? Describe your method of removing it.

September 27th.—Describe the nursing of a case of enteric fever.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)