

## 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 PROBLEMS OF VENEREAL DISEASE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—Now that a Royal Commission has at last been appointed, to inquire into the problems of Venereal Disease, many thoughtful people are asking what steps can be taken to safeguard the public health in this direction. It is often assumed that the only possible methods are "the Continental system" (C. D. Acts), or compulsory notification; but comparatively few people seem to have much knowledge as to the results of these measures where they have been tried, or of the practical difficulties encountered. It may, therefore be of interest to the general public to know that a society exists which for over thirty years has made a study of the methods of dealing with these diseases and cognate problems. The information obtained has been carefully scheduled, and is open to those who desire to refer to it at the offices of the British Branch of the International Federation for the Abolition of State Regulation of Vice, 19, Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W. The Secretary is also prepared to deal with requests by post.

Yours faithfully,

Osgathorpe Hills,  
Sheffield.

HELEN WILSON, M.D.  
Hon. Sec.

## NURSING AT TENDRING WORKHOUSE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—My attention having been called to the publicity given to a letter addressed to THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING by the nurses of the Tendring Union in reply to the "B. J. N.'s" sympathetic comments on my action at the Board Meeting, in which letter the nurses alleged the suggestions by the Lady Guardian to be "utterly at variance with the facts," and asked that it should be publicly stated:—

(1) That the pillows are soft and the patients do not complain of them.

(2) That china cups and mugs have always been in use, the only enamel ones being five small ones kept for the use of the children.

(3) That there was always someone on duty in the wards where there were bedded patients.

Which leaves me no alternative but to recapitulate the facts publicly acknowledged at the Board Meeting as reported (Clacton papers, October 11th).

The Master explained that the soft pillow I had sent for the use of the patient (now deceased) had not at first been given because he objected to "differentiate between the patients."

Now, this inability to differentiate appeared to me the gist of the matter and the very foundation on which I based my plea at the Board Meeting for some relaxation of discipline and rules controlling the aged, sick and dying.

The Master stated (as reported) when he discovered (viz., when I had shown him) there was another bedridden patient with a feather pillow, the feather pillow I had sent was allowed, but the Master was unable to tell the Board in reply to inquiry when or how the other pillow had been brought into the building. All that could apparently be ascertained was that it had been the comfort of some poor woman who, dying, had bequeathed it to its present owner, a bedridden patient of several years, whose pathetic look and voice of entreaty when she feared she was about to be deprived of her pillow had nerved me to propose at the following Board Meeting that there should be a few soft pillows for the use of the aged, sick and dying when desired.

In reply to No. 2, the Master said the patient asked for an iron mug as it was lighter than a china one.

(3) Had there been someone on duty I should not have needed *unaided* to try and keep the patient from getting out of bed (vide Report), also my letter in which I emphasised that for fear there should be any misapprehension of my attitude I craved permission to state that it was no wish of mine either to attack Committees or Officials, believing they were simply responsible for carrying out rules and regulations made by us Guardians in conjunction with the Local Government Board.

Yours truly,

E. S. HOOPER.

Courtlands,  
Clacton-on-Sea.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

November 15th.—What are the special points to be observed when nursing a case of dipsomania?

November 22nd.—What are the causes of tetanus, and what is the nursing treatment?

November 29th.—Mention some of the chief preparations of opium with their usual doses. What are the symptoms of an overdose?

## OUR WEST END OFFICE.

Copies of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING can always be procured at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., price One Penny.

## OUR CHRISTMAS COMPETITION.

Four Five Shilling Prizes will be awarded in December for the best toys made at a cost of not more than 1s. The toys must be sent to the Editorial Office, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, with a coupon in the issue of December 6th.

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