

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 ASSOCIATION OF APPROVED SOCIETIES.
THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE
NURSING OF INSURED PERSONS.**

To the Editor of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am instructed by the Standing Committee which was appointed by the National Conference on the Nursing of Insured Persons held on the 26th ult., to point out that there appears to be a general misconception as to the nature of that Committee, and more particularly as to its representative character. I am to point out that the 12 members of that Committee were not appointed as duly accredited representatives of the different organisations to which they belong. This would have been impossible, as none of them were specifically authorised by their organisations to represent them on the Committee. Furthermore, most of the members of the Committee possess dual qualifications, e.g., three members of the Committee are connected with both Nursing Organisations and Insurance Committees; one member is connected with a Nursing Organisation and an Approved Society; three members are connected with both an Approved Society and an Insurance Committee. The Standing Committee as at present constituted is therefore to be considered as representing the National Conference and not as representing individual organisations.

I am further to point out that at its first Meeting held on Friday last, the Committee resolved to co-opt a further twelve members to the Committee, and steps are now being taken to invite nominations from Approved Societies, Insurance Committees and Nursing Organisations. Any such body wishing to be represented should send the nominations to me at the earliest possible moment. The twelve members will be chosen from those nominated, at the next Meeting of the Committee, which will be held on January 19th, 1914.

Yours faithfully,

ALBAN GORDON.

Hon. Secretary.

82, Victoria Street, S.W.

THE OUTWARD SIGN.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—The munificence of the London County Council in providing new uniform for its Nurses once in six years reminds me of similar generosity of the Government, thirty-two years ago in paying Nursing Sisters with the Army on Active Service, 3s. a day to cover board, washing, and service in Egypt; or drawing the ration of Tommy Atkins: 1 lb. bread and $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. meat. How on this latter could women taken from the ranks

of Officers' daughters exist, much more perform arduous duties in a hot country?

ONE WHO TRIED AND FAILED.

[The School Nurses' uniform is now to be renewed every three years, it ought to be renewed annually, for the sake of cleanliness.—ED.]

MIDWIFERY MONOPOLIES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—As long as the Central Midwives Board allows the *bona fide* midwife to have full sway and persuade would-be patients that the trained midwife is an ignoramus, who can blame the trained midwife if she tries to obtain some other post? After spending much time and money to obtain the Central Midwives Board certificate, to enable her to practise as a midwife, she finds herself treated as an ignoramus. She is condemned for being too particular. She must keep the rules to the letter. Her bag, appliances, dress, &c., must be thoroughly clean and up-to-date. Her conduct must be above reproach, also her associates, yet she is treated worse than the charwoman. Where does the prestige come in? One begins to wonder whom the Central Midwives Board recognises, the trained midwife or the "Gamp" who gets ten cases to one of the trained midwife's.

Yours very truly,

CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

[The *bona fide* midwives were certified during the time of grace after the passing of the Midwives Act from 1902 to 1905. Trained midwifery has not a very bright outlook anyway, as the country is covered with a network of monopoly by Nursing Associations, who employ *midwives* with a little knowledge of nursing as *midwifery nurses*, thus depriving both professions of a free field and no favour.—ED.]

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Nurse Evans, London.—Before going to any Colony, we strongly recommend you to pass the examination of the Central Midwives Board, as you will find a knowledge of midwifery most useful, indeed for most appointments abroad it is essential.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

December 27th.—Mention the symptoms that might indicate the beginning of mastitis. If ice-bags are ordered, what is the proper method of procedure?

January 3rd.—What points would you specially observe in nursing a case of heart disease, and what arrangements would you make for the comfort of the patient?

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