

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.

TRAINED NURSING IN RED CROSS ORGANIZATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Whilst much appreciating the criticisms of the Red Cross Organisation in last week's paper, I should like to add a few more, and at the same time explain the reasons for some of the weak points.

Central examinations, or at least uniform ones at fixed dates, would be a great boon. As it is, students work up for exams. for given dates which are often deferred indefinitely, causing great inconvenience. I know it is difficult to find doctors willing to take up Red Cross work, but if they could be more punctual and they and the officials generally more willing and able to give accurate information a great deal of time now wasted by the students might be usefully employed. A fully-trained nurse as Superintendent in each detachment would no doubt be more effective than anyone else could be; but where, in the country districts at any rate, would one find a fully-trained nurse who could give the necessary time to organising and superintending a V.A. Detachment? Trained Nurses are attached wherever possible now, but with great difficulty. The Society is not rich enough to offer a salary, and unless made an appointment under Government with full pay, few could afford to devote themselves to the cause. Nurses should of course have a voice on the Central Committee, and not only be recognised as officers, but as the most important ones in each Detachment. There seems to me plenty of zeal for knowledge and further training, at any rate amongst the members of the Women's Detachment, but few facilities for obtaining either.

A RAW RECRUIT.

THE BITER BIT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—With the widespread publicity given through THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING it would appear that the White Slaver wearing our uniform is likely at no distant date to defeat her own end, as the public, it would appear, have come to recognise it as a sign of depravity. I was both annoyed and amused at an incident lately. I got into a railway carriage at Paddington, and found seated opposite a pretty young girl. An "auntie" standing on the platform was bidding her good-bye, and for some reason appeared greatly disturbed. She kept looking at her watch then at all the packages belonging to my companion, stowed on the rack. A minute or two before we were due to start she made a dash into the carriage

seized some parcels, gave the rest to her niece, and hustled her out of the carriage and into one near by.

Then the reason for anxiety dawned upon me. I was evidently a dangerous character, not to be trusted to travel alone with a pretty young girl.

I felt furious—not that I blamed the care of the elder lady of one dear to her, but that it has come to this that our once honoured uniform, which secured respect in the lowest slum, is now a garb of suspicion and associated with the most criminal conduct of which any fiend can be guilty. I felt inclined to pitch my cloak and bonnet out of the window.

Yours truly,

PRIVATE NURSE.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Candidate, Bournemouth.—There are only a few hospitals in this country which have organized preliminary training schools for probationers before entering the wards for practical instruction. Guy's Hospital is one of them. By all means avail yourself of the opportunity of training there should it offer.

Staff Nurse, London.—It is still the rule in some hospitals that, when a poisonous drug is given to a patient, the dose measured should be checked by a second nurse. Whatever the emergency likely to arise, it is surely unnecessary to insist, in these days, that under no circumstances is it permissible to leave poisons exposed on the ward table.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

February 14th.—(a) Define the terms colostrum, meconium, ectopic gestation. (b) By what means does the fœtus receive nourishment?

February 21st.—What special care should be given to a child with measles; what precautions should be taken with reference to the room?

February 28th.—What do you know of the following diseases:—(a) Rickets; (b) gastric ulcer? Describe the nursing appropriate to each, and the treatment you have seen prescribed.

WHERE TO GET THE B.J.N.

If unable to procure THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING through a newsagent, the manager desires to be informed of the fact. If you ask for this Journal, do not be put off with a substitute. Copies can always be procured at the offices, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., and through Messrs. W. H. Smith & Son. In Scotland from Menzies & Co., Glasgow; and in Ireland from Fannin & Co., Dublin.

OUR ADVERTISERS.

We would remind our readers that they can help THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING by dealing as far as possible with advertisers in the paper, and getting their friends to do likewise. Only the most reliable firms are accepted by the management.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)