

## 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.*

## PROFESSIONAL UNITY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—I hope that you will pardon me for so soon again asking the courtesy of your columns, but I shall be most grateful if you will allow me, in reply to your correspondent "R. B. N. A." to explain shortly the essential differences between our policy and that of the Nurses' Union with which we are often confounded.

The Nurses' Union is the Nurses' branch of the Young Women's Christian Association, and corresponds in scope to the Guild of St. Barnabas, and the Catholic Nurses' Guild. These are all definitely religious bodies, doing most valuable work, but being necessarily sectarian, and governed by others than members of the Nursing Profession, cannot any of them claim, and in most cases do not wish to claim, to be representative of it as a whole, or to be concerned with professional matters.

The policy of the National Union of Trained Nurses is educational, all now recognizing that co-operation without education as to its possibilities is useless. It is carried on by means of professional self-governing local branches analogous to those of the British Medical Association. These make for co-operation between the different branches of the profession on more individual lines than is possible with a Centralized Society.

As the Union is entirely self-governing, the policy of its governing body is the policy of the majority, and if those who wish for state recognition would recognize this, join us locally, and help to form branches where none exist as yet, they would be forging a very powerful weapon for their cause.

Yours faithfully,

E. M. PYE,  
General Secretary.

39, Great Smith Street, S.W.

[So far the N.U.T.N. has done nothing to give effective support to those Societies of nurses, who have worked for years, and entirely financed the movement to obtain legal status. Hope it will come out soon.—Ed.]

## A NON-EXISTENT SERVICE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The purpose of my letter is to ask you a service. The Dutch Red Cross Society intends to organise a Red Cross Nursing Service in order to be prepared for all eventualities.

But the Board of Officers of that Society maintains that it will be impossible to organise this service with trained nurses only, the number of

trained nurses being not sufficient, according to them. In order to fill up this deficit, they purpose to train assistants. Our Dutch Nurses' Association is very much opposed to this project, because the training of the assistants will be so dreadfully superficial. We feel assured that there must be other ways and means to organise this service, and we should feel very grateful if you would kindly tell us how this service is organised in England.

Please accept by anticipation my most sincere thanks for your information, which I hope to obtain as soon as possible.

Yours truly,

J. C. VAN LANSCHOT HUBRECHT,  
President of the  
Dutch Nurses' Association.

Amsterdam.

[This letter was sent to us by the President of the Dutch Nurses' Association to forward to the Superintendent of the Red Cross Nursing Service in this country. Miss van Lanschot Hubrecht naturally supposed that in Florence Nightingale's country such a service would be efficiently organised. We have been compelled to inform her that there is no Superintendent of Nursing of the British Red Cross Society, and that to obtain the information she requires she must write to Miss J. A. Delano, the trained Superintendent of the Red Cross Service in the United States, which is efficiently organised to take service both in war and in times of national calamity.—Ed.]

## REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Mrs. G. F., Birmingham.*—The Wordsworth Home of Rest, Swanage, receives visitors with subscribers' ticket, on payment of 4s. a week for three weeks; without a ticket, for 8s. a week. Ladies are received at from 15s. to 30s. a week. The home which is well placed, facing south-west, with a sea view, is open all the year round.

*Homerton.*—We will deal with the question in which you are interested next week. We agree with you that if "girls can play round for a few hours a week in hospitals and infirmaries, and then emerge in full nurses' uniform, with the promise of work at the front, when the experienced nurses are relegated to the base," it will curtail the supply of women willing to spend three or four years in training thoroughly. All this nibbling at nursing is very deplorable. It depreciates the quality of our work.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

*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.

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