

## 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.*

## OUTRAGEOUS AND SENSELESS BLOCKING.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I suggest to the rank and file of nurses, having little time and no money to spare for helping forward Registration, that there is one way in which *all* can help the cause—namely, to read week by week all the news concerning it, and to boil this down into a simple statement of facts which can be made inside ten minutes to any member of the public when opportunity occurs. All nurses contact at times lay folk, directly or indirectly influential, who are utterly ignorant of this subject and of their own vital interest in it. They would only be bewildered at being confronted by the mass of conflicting testimony published in the press.

Speaking of the outrageous and senseless blocking of the Bill at present to a lay friend interested in nursing, she asked, "But why should *anybody* oppose Registration? it seems to me to be only for the good of everyone concerned." I promptly explained to her how all the opposition emanates from a few powerful London Hospitals, and from Nursing Associations which provide insufficiently trained nurses.

If only nurses would shake off their apathy, which is very often selfishness, the hindrances to Registration would speedily be demolished.

Yours faithfully,

M. M. G. B.

[Apathy is not the only deterrent to active support of Registration—ignorance on the question and fear of loss of employment are also important factors. The "free" press has determinedly boycotted the question for years, and the lay nursing press has misrepresented facts. Moreover this is a great national question, and, if the nursing profession as a whole has not supported the need for organization, those who have done so have worked and paid for its consummation, with the greatest courage, and loyalty for the welfare of sick people, and their profession as a whole. It is always the few who pay and suffer for the many. Let us be thankful for our pioneers, and for the awakening of those coming along.—ED.]

## DO MATRONS WISH TO RETIRE?

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I do, and for the following reasons: Because I have been a matron for twenty years and I believe a younger woman would do better work; I am tired of routine and monotony. I don't suffer fools as gladly as I did a decade ago. When the young house staff are uppish, unpunctual, exacting and rude, I should like to spank them, as a "grannie" should

be permitted to do. I am also tired of teaching the rudiments of good manners to "pros," and their household duties to the domestic staff. I am also disinclined to continue double the hours on duty for half the pay given to inexperienced male officials. From which you will gather how desirable for all concerned it would be that I should retire. Funnily enough, no one wants me to resign, which speaks well for the generosity of human nature.

Yours sincerely,

MATRON OF A COUNTRY HOSPITAL.

[We know this lady to be immensely popular with all her fellow workers. Can our readers guess why?—ED.]

## TRAINED NURSES FOR ULSTER.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—You will be glad to hear that the National Union of Trained Nurses has been able to send during the last fortnight upwards of fifty names of fully-trained nurses willing to give their services in aid of the sick and wounded in Ulster, should the sad necessity arise. I think this speaks well for the public spiritedness of the nursing profession.

Names can still be received by Miss Platt, Kingston, Taunton; but, of course, those that send them in first will be most likely to be called out.

Yours faithfully,

E. L. C. EDEN,  
Central Organizer N.U.T.N.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have received official word that names of Nurse Volunteers are urgently called for. Main terms: No pay! no expense! Particulars from Miss Platt.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

April 25th.—Name diseases which may cause obstruction in the cesophagus, and how is it usual to feed such patients?

May 2nd.—How is Medical Asepsis maintained?

## OUR ADVERTISERS.

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