

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.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

Miss Chapman has received the 5s., and sends her best thanks for the prize. She desires also to express her appreciation of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, which always contains much interesting news of the nursing world.

Norton, Malton.

"A LITTLE NURSING."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The examples given by "Hospital Matron" of "a little nursing" done by candidates for hospital training might be quoted *ad infinitum*. I have just the same experience as a matron. But what is to be done? Young women must do something to earn a living after leaving school, and hospital training for three years is far too arduous work for them until their constitutions are built-up and set. Twenty-one is early enough for any woman to enter upon such a vocation as nursing, if most immature nurses are not to be the result. When we have a Governing Body for our profession, such girls from about eighteen up could surely be directed into Crèches, Babies' Clinics, Children's Hospitals, and be taught the clerical side of a hospital office, care of linen, and the elementary theory of nursing, &c.—anyway, some sort of work which would not need association with sick adult people. Cottage hospitals, also private asylums, take girls far too young as probationers and attendants—and thus girls drift half-trained into private nursing. How sad to think of the loss of the past decade—if our Bill had become law, we should now be well on the way on a legal basis to have reformed and organized much. Every year legislation is delayed is disastrous for the sick.

Yours truly,

ANOTHER HOSPITAL MATRON.

OBJECTS OF PITTY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In the last few numbers of the JOURNAL I note expressions of sympathy for the nurses' conditions and struggles after justice in this country, from Matrons in New Zealand, India, and even from an American colleague working in Turkish Arabia. Imagine it, that we, the real makers of professional nursing should be justifiably objects of pity to the nurses of the world. It is a disgrace to every member of Parliament in the Kingdom, that the claim of a class of women engaged night and day in work of the very highest value to the

State, should be treated with the neglect suffered by us for a quarter of a century past. I am grateful for all the kind things your correspondents write, but they rouse a deep sense of resentment in my mind towards those who systematically treat women's work with contempt, whilst permitting "gentlemen of monopolistic and capitalistic tendencies" as Miss Dock describes them, to exploit us in every direction. No wonder the fever stricken poor of London are suffering from a lack of nurses.

Yours truly,

Manchester.

ESTHER G. POWELL.

[We also feel indignation that it should have been possible for our well-reasoned and public spirited demands for State organisation of trained nursing in the United Kingdom to have been "held up" by those availing themselves of the fruits of our labour.—ED.]

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Miss F. C. (Liverpool).—Write to the Secretary Colonial Nursing Association, Imperial Institute, London, S.W. Before being eligible for the work you require you must obtain the certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

Sister Dora (Bristol).—You will usually find the Members' Application Form for the Society for State Registration on page 1 of our advertising sheets. Get your friends to join and support the demand for the Nurses Registration Bill.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

May 9th.—Under what conditions are nutritive enemata given? (a) How are they given? (b) How often? (c) Give a formula for same.

May 16th.—If a mother is unable to nurse her infant, what are the best alternatives?

May 23rd.—How would you nurse a patient suffering from rheumatoid arthritis?

May 30th.—Mention some nursing expedients which you have seen used in district and school nursing?

NEW SUBSCRIBERS.

The Editor hopes that every reader who values THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING will get one or more subscribers—so that its constructive work for the profession may receive ever increasing support. Advice is given free by the Editor under heading of Replies to Correspondents. If unable to obtain the JOURNAL through a news-agent, the Manager desires to be informed of the fact.

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.

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