

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.

WELCOME HELP.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—At the Annual Meeting of the Hendon Central London Sick Asylum Nurses' League, it was proposed and carried unanimously that a contribution of £1 is. should be sent to the Society for the State Registration of Nurses, with an expression of appreciation of the work being done by the Society. Almost all members of the League realise how greatly nurses will benefit when the Bill passes, and how the time is indeed over-ripe for the status of their beloved profession to be raised.

Yours faithfully,

ESTHER J. PEARSE,
(Hon. Treasurer, C.L.S.A.L.
Hendon).

NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have sent the following letter to Lord Robert Cecil, asking his support for the Nurses' Registration Bill.

Yours truly,

Thistledown, Letchworth. CLARA LEE.

MY LORD,—As the Member of Parliament for the Constituency in which I am a householder but have no vote, I would ask your support of the Bill. At present the public are exploited by untrained women, the sick endangered by their ignorance and the trained women severely handicapped. The Division on the first reading on March 3rd was overwhelmingly in favour of this reform. As a trained nurse of twenty years' experience, I have come face to face with the ignorance of the untrained woman and the consequent danger to the sick. The fact that there is no recognised legal standard for nurses is illustrated by the following advertisement in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, March 21st. "Required, Experienced Midwife for district work, Cyclist, one with General training preferred, Salary £78. Apply Mrs. King, 41, Broadway, Letchworth." This works out at rather less than 2½d. per hour. There is no Saturday half holiday or Sunday rest. She is on duty at any time in the twenty-four hours. No unskilled man worker in this neighbourhood is contented with less than 5d.. Does not this indicate the urgent need for immediate reform? Therefore as one of the champions of the woman movement, I request you to press forward in the carrying of a measure as necessary to safeguard the public as the woman who has given some of the best years of her life to acquire skill in her profession. The proposal of the L.C.C. to class Private Nursing Homes with disorderly houses for inspection by the police is making some of the best nurses, who

could still do some service, say they prefer retiring on a very small income, to working under such conditions, leaving the authorities to still further feel the shortage of nurses.

Yours truly,

CLARA LEE.

ORGANISATION IN THE AIR.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—From papers read and speeches made lately one would imagine that the nursing world in this country was entirely unorganised, and that nothing had ever been done through co-operation to make trained nurses articulate. I was glad to read your editorial last week, and also that you mentioned just a little of the enormous amount of work done by the BRITISH JOURNAL upon our behalf during the past twenty years. The fact is that a great number of earnest nurses in England, Scotland, and Ireland are associated together to organise nursing by Act of Parliament, and that is the only really effective basis of organisation. It seems to me that the majority of women now talking of organisation have done nothing themselves in the past, and are mightily ignorant of what their more progressive colleagues have done. One Matron, as you report, actually proposed at the Nursing Conference to found a British Nurses' Association. I was one of those who helped to found the B.N.A. in 1888, and to win its Royal Charter in 1893! Then the fact that 10,000 English, Scottish and Irish Matrons and Nurses are represented by affiliation on the Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses, a committee watching nursing legislation very carefully, was quite news to another Matron I met in London last week. As for our world-wide National and International Councils—the work accomplished by them was also news to this same Matron. Why do the Matrons not keep in touch with what is being done, and also study Miss Dock's wonderful "History of Nursing"? Why do they not encourage their nurses to do likewise, and also to join with others for the common good? I met a little German nurse at THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING Stand at the Exhibition last week. "Oh, we know all about this paper in Germany," she said. And a Dutch nurse who visited the Stand talked fluently of registration progress, both in England and Holland. She knew the ins and outs of the question in both countries. Are we a stupid people? Foreigners say so, and after some travel one begins to believe it.

Yours truly,

MEMBER MATRONS' COUNCIL.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

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?

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