

## 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.*

## WHY MATRONS SHOULD RETIRE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—May I write a word in sympathy with Miss Mollett, if my letter will not be out of date by the time it reaches you.

I do not think with Miss Hulme that "the majority of matrons still in harness will envy her," or would readily change places with her, because I would presume the time has not yet come for them to do so. They are still in harness because they are still "fit." Better a little too much work than the unsatisfied longing for it. But when the matron feels that she is not quite as keen as she used to be, when she is inclined to think things will do as they are, when she is beginning to acknowledge that she is getting a little bit tired of it all, then she should have the grace to do as Miss Mollett has done. And happy is she if she can feel that she is passing her work on to one who will carry it forward. No matron worthy of her position wishes to keep the "children she trained and cherished" under her own hands when they would do better work in the hands of another. We all like to see the work we love prosper, and would surely ask nothing better than to find worthy successors. The time of rest comes for all of us when we pass over our work, not exactly to strangers, but to fellow-workers.

It is not fair or just to "Hold on! Fight on" when by so doing the work is suffering, because we are not making way for stronger leaders.

"Make me anxious to do Thy Will," but not unwilling that it should be done by others rather than by me.

I am, Yours faithfully,  
M. SOUTHCOTT,

*Superintendent of Nurses,  
General Hospital, St. John's, Newfoundland.*

## A QUESTION OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—We have to thank you for making the organisation of the Annual Nursing and Midwifery Conference clear, and I warmly support your contention that the control of such a Conference has no right to be in the hands of the Editor of an unprofessional publication. Two hundred "brown" tickets were sent to this hospital for the nursing staff, but owing to their exclusion from the Conference unless they submitted their qualifications to an anonymous Secretary, the staff declined to attend either the Exhibition or Conference. "I'll be hanged if I do!" was the outspoken sentiment of one Sister—shared by others.

Yours truly,  
A LONDON HOSPITAL MATRON.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The truth is that the majority of hospital matrons and nurses who do not want to collect a bag full of samples do not attend the Nursing and Midwifery Exhibition, and, as far as I saw, none of those who gave their names as a "front page" attended the sitting on Registration I was at, with the exception of the Chairwoman. The unprofessional organisers controlled the whole affair.

Yours sincerely,  
MEMBER STATE REGISTRATION SOCIETY.

## THE USE OF GLOVES WHEN NURSING ENTERIC PATIENTS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was very glad to notice in the illuminating article by Dr. Knyvett Gordon on "Asepsis in Fever Nursing" his insistence on the use of rubber gloves by nurses caring for enteric patients and handling soiled linen, &c., as well as in the scarlet fever and diphtheria wards when attending to throats and doing dressings. I learnt this, to my great advantage, from some of Dr. Gordon's previous articles in the JOURNAL some years ago, and feel sure that if the practice were always insisted upon fever nurses would seldom contract infectious diseases in the discharge of their duty. I always make a point of preaching its adoption to nurses now and find they gladly take my advice. It is one of the many valuable hints I have gathered from the JOURNAL.

Yours faithfully  
SISTER.

## REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Miss E. (Birmingham).*—The use of baths in febrile conditions is not only to lower the temperature, but because of their effect on the circulatory, respiratory and nervous systems. A favourable effect on these will also favourably affect the temperature of the patient, and aid in its reduction.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

*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?

## NOTICE.

Will readers of this JOURNAL who have a complete file from the first number of the NURSING RECORD in 1888 to the last number of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING in 1911, and who are willing to dispose of them, communicate with Messrs. G. E. Stechert & Co., 2, Star Yard, Carey Street, London, W.C. The early numbers of the JOURNAL are now becoming very rare, and we fear the firm may have some difficulty in obtaining them. Two complete files have already been secured through the medium of this paper for American libraries.

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