

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.

"EQUALITY OF RICH & POOR IN SICKNESS."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I read the article by Lady Jersey in the *National Review*, and with additional interest your review thereon. The one sentence which is necessary for us all to grasp is your claim for "equality of rich and poor in sickness" for it is as you say the basic principle upon which the demand for registration of trained nurses is founded—and it is the principal reason why every nurse worthy of her name should fight for it. I have been a Queen's nurse in several places and it is quite extraordinary how tenaciously the lay committees which govern County and Cottage Nurses' Associations object to any representation on them, of women who are trained, and therefore have some right to express an opinion on what is, and what is not an adequate education and training for nurses before they are encouraged to consider themselves efficient and safe caretakers of poor sick people. The whole atmosphere of these committees is feudal in the highest degree.

Since my marriage I have lived in a place where I am the only woman with professional experience, and the suggestion that I would make a useful member of our County Nursing Association Committee has been determinedly opposed by every "Committee Lady" and parson in the parish. Why? Simply because I have expressed the opinion that a midwife who has had a few months district training is not a "skilled" nurse, and has no right to be constantly spoken of as such, and also because I have said that such workers have no right to be used by doctors for private patients at a charge of £1 a week. Indeed I have known a higher fee charged—the Association making good profits by sending out these really untrained nurses as "skilled" workers. These committees, largely composed of titled philanthropic people, are the worst enemies of the registration cause, and Lady Jersey expresses exactly in her article their autocratic attitude of mind towards highly trained and efficient nurses.

Yours truly,
FORMERLY QUEEN'S NURSE.

A QUESTION OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS.

DEAR MADAM,—I note the correspondence under the above heading. If financiers and publishing firms, foreign editors and agents exploit the nursing profession in this country, it is entirely the fault of members of our profession. It is not only business faculty and common sense which are lacking here, but loyalty to high ideals of pro-

fessional honour. Imagine our contemptible situation in Germany, in the United States, in India, or Canada! Imagine members of the nursing profession, holding high positions in the nursing world in those countries, associating themselves anonymously for pay with publications which oppose, either openly or surreptitiously, all that we have striven for, worked for, paid for, all these years! It is unthinkable, and I feel sure such leaders as Sister Agnes Karll, Miss Nutting, Miss Tindall, and Miss Siveley would repudiate such action with scorn; and yet such treachery is what we are suffering from in England. In my opinion, such conduct is unworthy in the highest degree. It is time women who have so little sense of honour as to take money from the anti-registration papers, should cease to pose as registrationists.

Fallow Corner,
N. Finchley.

I am, &c.,
ELLEN B. KINGSFORD.

[Whatever its policy, we are of opinion that it is the duty of any trained nurse who associates herself as a permanent paid official of a commercial publication for nurses, to do so openly. She has every right to work under a lay editor, foreign or otherwise, if she chooses; but she owes it to her professional colleagues not to do it secretly. Both can then assume such relations as their varying sense of professional ethics dictates.—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

June 6th.—Describe appearance of blood in hemorrhage from lungs. (a) Define nurse's duties in such an emergency.

June 13th.—Describe the different diets now prescribed in enteric fever, and the principles underlying their adoption.

June 20th.—Mention some common causes of convulsions in children, and state how you would manage a child until the arrival of the medical practitioner.

June 27th.—Name the principal points to be remembered when placing a patient on the operating table.

NOTICE.

Our next issue, June 6th, of this Journal will be a

SPECIAL CONFERENCE NUMBER.
in connection with the Nursing Exhibition and Conference at Birmingham, and will be obtainable in the Conference Hall.

The Official Report of the Conference will be published in succeeding issues, as this JOURNAL is the official organ of the National Council of Trained Nurses, under the authority of which the Conference is convened.

To avoid disappointment orders for copies of the Special Conference Number, and following numbers should be placed early with the Manager; THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

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