

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.

A HOPPING BEG.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have to write a Hopping Beg! in the middle of the War. Yet the hopping is a splendid thing coming just now. It will take some 40,000 very poor away from London just exactly when the pinch is worst, occupy them, feed them, and send them back in three or four weeks far more fit to meet things.

There are no foreigners among hoppers (which is important considering how near we are to railway lines). Hopping camps are unruly places at times, and foreigners have taken a great deal of bread out of people's mouths—in town. They are not wanted hopping, and they wisely never come.

But for all that it is good that workers are so well in among the hoppers in these days, and that we are all such friends. I hope we shall not have our marquees and tents commandeered but it would not matter. We can get on somehow, and the great thing in my opinion is that we are all real friends together and can stand by each other whatever comes.

Some of our very best workers are at the War, others are going. But others have stepped into their places. What we are going to do for money I don't know. Yet in some ways this year hopping is far more important than ever.

At Stepney we are full of plans. The pinch has not come yet. People are perfectly splendid helping each other, and telling each other where there is a chance of work.

We are going to have dinners for work girls, cooked by themselves, let them work at hospital clothes and learn to sew and machine in the afternoon, have a cup of tea and 6d., and go home. So they will be able to come "up to town" in the morning, look for work, then be kept occupied in the afternoon and have their fare to get home and back the next day.

Our clubs, the Red House men and White House (which has many old soldiers) are drilling for "home work" steadily (some twenty have gone to the war), and I have the best authority for saying that in our circumstances, in a world of foreigners and among many anarchists, they may in time very possibly prove "uncommonly useful," especially as we have a party of "Lords and Commons" sleeping on the White House floor every night and handy if wanted.

The L.C.C. are giving us Ambulance and Home Nursing Lectures, which will be at least useful in keeping people occupied.

The Red House, which can feed some thousands a day, is going to be useful.

The Blue House Girls come up in crowds every day into church to say prayers for their relations and sweethearts, and there are hundreds of these "dear ones" names on our "lists" in the church. One married "Blue Girl" in their club the other day said her husband had gone to Belgium as a motor driver. There were not enough motors, so he was given a gun and sent to fight. He sent a letter, and said, "If anything happens, tell baby when he grows up that father did his duty." And there are endless stories of the same kind. Never in our life have we all been drawn so close together. I am glad with all my heart that we are all here. Pray for us that we may do our duty quietly and wisely. I don't want to ask for money which is wanted elsewhere, for we want to "play the game." But we do want money beyond words, and are already overdrawn! Even our workers are a big family to keep. Much must happen and so much want doing before I write again.

Believe me, very very gratefully for all your goodness to us,

RICHARD WILSON.

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Settles Street, Commercial Road, E.

WHERE TO VOLUNTEER.

Nurses wishing to volunteer for active service must do so at the office of the British Red Cross Society, which is now established at Devonshire House, Piccadilly, W., by the kindness of the Duke of Devonshire, who has placed the whole of the ground floor at the disposal of the Committee, or through the St. John Ambulance Association, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, E.C. Nurses engaged in hospitals or on the staffs of Private Nursing Institutions, or District Nursing Associations, should first get the assent of the Matron or Superintendent.

The Medical Department of the Admiralty state that many applications are made there by nurses of varying qualifications. The authorities are not in need of nurses, or desirous of enrolling them, and it is unlikely that their services will be utilized if offered there.

Applications for enrolment in the International Nursing Corps for Active Service in War, from three years' certificated nurses, should be made at the Headquarters of the International Council of Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, London.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

September 12th.—What do you understand by shock, and what can you do to combat it?

September 19th.—Why is milk an ideal food? Mention some ways in which it may be made more digestible.

September 26th.—What do you know of anti-typhoid vaccination and its preventive influence?

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