

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.

THE ANOMALOUS POSITION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT NURSE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—In face of the revelations made respecting the treatment meted out to the Superintendent Nurse at Barnet, it seems to me that Miss Joseph, as a certified nurse, might well restrict her energies to an endeavour to educate public opinion to alter the "relative positions" of the Superintendent Nurse and the Workhouse Master. These she "fully admits are such as naturally lend themselves to friction."

It scarcely helps the cause of reform for one of our number, though she be a Poor Law Guardian, to whitewash "Boards" generally or to display "an intelligent and helpful interest in the difficulties" of the Workhouse Master. It is not, however, with Board or Master that exception must be taken, but with the system adopted by the Local Government Board. To get this modified we should all bestir ourselves.

Yours faithfully,

ELLEN B. KINGSFORD.

Fallow Corner Home,
N. Finchley.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was deeply interested in the suggestion made by Miss H. Hawkins in last week's journal, that a Petition to the Local Government Board should be signed by Poor Law Nurses, praying for the redress of the present anomalous position of the Superintendent Nurse, but in talking it over with my colleagues found that there was not one of them who thought it her "business." Let us hope none of them will ever be called upon to fill this humiliating position.

Yours sincerely,

AN INFIRMARY SISTER.

[We purposely expressed no editorial opinion on the very sensible proposal made by Miss Henrietta Hawkins, as a practical outcome of the martyrdom of the late Miss Charlotte Phipps, in her letter in these columns last week, and we feel bound to acknowledge that we have not received one letter from any Poor Law Matron, Sister or Nurse offering to support such a Petition. As we are of opinion that all growth comes from within, and that Poor Law Nursing reform should be urged by those in the service of the Local Government Board, we regret we are unable to organise such a Petition. The Poor Law Matrons, also the Superintendent Nurses, have professional Associations, and frankly with their expert knowledge of conditions in Poor Law institutions we consider they are the bodies which

should take the initiative. So far the Matrons' Council alone has expressed to the President of the Local Government Board its deep sorrow at the tragic death of Miss Phipps, although we have no doubt the members of every nurses' organisation was much shocked by it.—Ed.]

BREACH OF CONTRACT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The nursing profession is such an apathetic body that the very pertinent remarks of the correspondent from Melbourne which appeared last week will no doubt pass in at one ear and out of the other. I allude to what she says as to the future danger of the "Red Cross short cut into the nursing ranks," for there is no doubt that dozens of the girls who have qualified for a "Nursing Certificate" through the Red Cross Society, and who are now being taught practical nursing under thoroughly trained nurses in hospitals for sick and wounded soldiers, will continue to do a little nursing after the War. In this hospital, which according to the regulations under which I contracted to train and serve, I am bound for a term of four years' hard work, but recently a large number of girls have been let loose in the wards, not for the benefit of the patients, but just to pick up a month's experience for their own gratification and benefit. Whilst I clean baths, pans, instruments, and other necessary things not strictly clinical nursing, the "warriors" do none of these things and are taught real nursing, although I am bound to say the majority consider such instruction superfluous. I consider this a distinct breach of faith, if not of contract, upon the part of the Board of Management and the Matron. I include the Matron because in a neighbouring Infirmary the Matron has told the Committee she cannot be responsible for the nursing discipline, unless the regulations for nurse training are adhered to, and they have been.

Yours truly,

A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.

[We have alluded to this letter in another column. We must discourage short cuts to private nursing.—Ed.]

NOTICE.

In our Letters from the Front last week from Miss Eden, the sentence "They are converted taxis" should read "They are converted 'Fords.'"

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

October 31st.—Describe the different classes of fractures, and the dangers to be guarded against.

November 7th.—Say what you know about Typhus Fever, and how it should be nursed.

November 14th.—How should Cholera patients be nursed?

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