

supervision. I write to support most heartily the resolution passed last week at the meeting of the National Council of Trained Nurses, and forwarded to the Secretary of State for War, but with very little hope that he will tackle the matter. A British Peeress is a much more formidable personage to control than either the Mahdi or the Kaiser!

Yours truly,
MARION C. PATTEN.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—The National Council of Trained Nurses is to be congratulated on its very definite and outspoken resolution, which, as I see by the Press, is likely to have a far-reaching effect.

A terrible toll of needless pain may have already been added to the miseries of this unhappy War, but it does seem likely that the dawn of better things is at hand.

Yours with respect and admiration,
HENRIETTA HAWKINS.

Worthing.

THE FEVERED BROW.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—I was glad to note that the resolution passed at our annual meeting N.C.T.N. laid stress on the detriment to discipline of placing untrained women in positions of authority in auxiliary military hospitals, for as the War Office recognises them we must also include those superintended by titled women. How can a "dummy" matron maintain discipline when her superior officer sits smoking on Tommy's bed, smoothing his fevered brow the while? What an example to the young Red Cross girls, many in their teens, let loose in the wards of such hospitals. My experience is that some of these are very dear girls, who really mean well, who get up at all hours to be on duty at six in the morning, but it is the whole emotional atmosphere of the wards which is so bad for them. I know my "Tommy," he and I have fought together for dear life in many a military hospital—in South Africa, India, and elsewhere. He is a first class fighting chap, and recognises discipline and military authority without a murmur. But he is not used to be *drivelled* over, and when I see a pretty young girl leaning over these boys, stroking their hands and smoothing their by no means fevered brows, I just want to tell that girl to run away and wash dishes—a much more wholesome occupation. An old stager like myself intercepts the wink between hospital comrades with half an eye, she can also interpret the "lingo" in which they express their surprise that such young women "are not 'alf be'ind'and." Then Tommy may be a bashful boy and quite averse to the publicity of such attentions. In his station of life it is his prerogative to make advances, and he has no use for the emotional nurse.

When one thinks of the situation called forth by the War one is amazed. For all the years I have been a nurse never has there been any suggestion of society girls sacrificing any time to attend our

poor sick in workhouses, infirmaries, or elsewhere, to whom they might have brought so much brightness and comfort from the outer world. What is the impulse of the present Red Cross craze? Whatever it is it produces a thoroughly unhealthy condition of affairs and cannot, in my opinion, be too severely discouraged.

Yours,
ARMY NURSING RESERVE.

A QUESTION OF ORGANIZATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I should like to know through your JOURNAL how nurses are accommodated and catered for in some of the Territorial Base Hospitals. When I was called up to my Base Hospital I was prepared to undergo some hardships, but I certainly was not prepared for the amount of roughing it that we nurses have to put up with. For instance, in my personal experience, not even all the sisters have single rooms, and the nurses mostly sleep 16-18 in a room with an inadequate number of small screens, and in some of the rooms they have to go through the wards for their baths. The food also is very often badly cooked and indifferently served.

No doubt many people would consider it unpatriotic at this time to dwell on such mundane matters, but when we consider that numbers of Territorial Nurses are giving up their positions, half their salaries, and in some cases even losing their posts, I think it behoves the authorities to do their best for the comfort and well-being of the nurses in England when, after all, the War affects us very little in such matters.

I trust that this state of affairs is not general in other Hospitals.

Yours faithfully,
A TERRITORIAL NURSE.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

District Nurse, Birmingham.—Dr. R. M. Anderson, U.S.A., approves of an inexpensive sputum cup, to be used in a holder, which may be made of ordinary white fibre manilla paper folded and dipped in hot paraffin. This hardens immediately on exposure to the air, and so glues the overlapping edges and gives support to the box. As paraffin is highly combustible the destruction of bacteria is assured when the cups are burned.

Probationer, London.—If a patient is under an anæsthetic he does not feel the heat of hot water bottles if applied, and unless great care is exercised in their application bad burns may result. In addition to the flannel cover of the bottle a fold of blanket should always be placed between an unconscious patient and a hot water bottle.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

December 26th.—Define the words (a) sterile; (b) asepsis; (c) disinfectants; (d) sterilization; (e) what is most effective?

January 2nd.—Mention some of the ways in which counter-irritation may be applied, and the methods of application.

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