

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.

EXPRESS TRAINING.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I belong to the V.A.D.'s, and went to an Infirmary for three weeks' training, just to get an insight into ward nursing. Everyone was most kind to me, and I am bound to say there seemed plenty for an outsider, wishful to help, to do. For instance, the first day nurse took me round and showed me how to do dressings; and the next day, to my surprise, she told me to go and do them all, as she was due at a lecture! I had learned bandaging so managed to get through. In another ward for eyes I was told to go and do all the dressings without being shown. This I dare not do, but after one lesson did them next day. Everyone was on her feet from seven in the morning nearly all day, and as I was energetic my help seemed of use. The patients seemed to like a new and cheerful person, and one disagreeable old fellow was quite pleasant with me. "Mother of a family, I know?" he enquired. "Quite true, Daddy," said I. "Can't abide young gels—not half likely," he added. The nurses were only too pleased for me to deal with him. I think many more nurses are needed in infirmaries. I did my share of cleaning every day, and can quite feel for "K. S." if her nursing was taken from her and done by a bird of passage.

Yours truly,
V. A. D.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am glad to see a protest from a probationer *re* the Red Cross ladies in hospital wards.

I do not believe it is the wish of any Matron that they should be admitted into the wards. As a rule she realizes that all the experience obtainable is required to turn out her own nurses properly equipped. But what is she to do if the Honorary Staff and the hospital committee insist? And if these ladies are sent to the wards arrayed in caps and aprons what is the Sister to do? And if doctors *will* employ untrained and partly trained women as nurses in private work, what help is there for it? None, until State Registration becomes law. And the sooner every nurse realises this *and helps*, the sooner the evil will cease. We cannot expect well educated and suitable women to enter for training while we can offer them no security.

All women should be taught bedmaking and to attend on the sick and bedridden, but women in charge of busy wards should not be expected to give such teaching in addition to their important

work of training probationers, or the probationers will suffer, as will the patients.

Yours truly, M. V. W.

[We wonder if the Sisters get extra pay for training voluntary aid workers. If not, why not?—ED.]

WHY SHOULD SCOTTISH NURSES WAIT?

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I support the plea of "A Scottish Sister" that if the unreasonable opposition of commercially managed nursing schools in England continues, to State Registration, Scottish nurses should have their own Bill. I see the Midwives' Bill for Scotland has passed its second reading in the House of Commons without any of the contentious opposition to which the first Midwives' Act was subjected in England for years. Why should the nursing profession be so unjustly discriminated against in England? Anyway, why should Scottish nurses wait?—I am, yours,

HIGHLANDER.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Nurse-Companion.—We should advise you to get "Reading Aloud and Literary Appreciation," by Mr. Hardress O'Grady; it gives many tips on a gentle art which is too often neglected by nurses. It costs 2s. 6d.

Enquirer.—Some of the best-known training schools for children's nurses are the Norland Institute, 10, Pembridge Square, London, W.; the Nursery Training School, at 4, King Edward Road, Hackney, N.E., for girls of the industrial classes; and St. Mary's Nursery College, Belsize Lane, Hampstead. The college is also a boarding-house for babies, who are received as paying guests. At the Princess Christian College for Training Ladies as Children's Nurses, 19, Wilmslow Road, Withington, Manchester, students are trained in all nursery work, practical and theoretical. There is also a Nursery Training College at 19, Beaumont Street, Liverpool, which offers a complete training as children's nurses to educated gentlewomen.

International.—We think you would enjoy "Under the Sky in California," by C. F. Saunders. It shows you all sorts of fine things—mountain, desert, cañon and flowery plain; you can go along with sportsmen, prospectors, cowboys and Indians—but by no means along the trodden path. We think you are wise to read up California before going there; it has a most picturesque history.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

July 25th.—How may the course of pregnancy be affected when the mother suffers from syphilis? What are the effects upon the child, supposing it is born alive, when the mother suffers from (a) syphilis or (b) gonorrhoea?

August 1st.—Describe the nursing of a case of scarlet fever. What complications may occur, and how would you endeavour to guard against them?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)