

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.

NURSES NEEDED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I shall be so much obliged if you will insert this letter in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. In Manchester, up to the present, we have 843 beds in our Territorial Force Hospitals, with 151 trained nurses; we are now taking over schools in Manchester, Salford and Stockport, with an additional 2,800 beds; and we want nurses.

I shall be so very grateful to any nurse who will come forward to help. The members of the T.F.N.S. must be three years' certificated nurses of general hospitals, and the salary is £40 with board, lodging and washing, and £8 for uniform; in this emergency we are allowed to use nurses who have not had a three years' certificate, as senior probationers, at a salary of £20 with board, lodging and washing, and £4 towards uniform. Anyone willing to offer her services should apply to me, stating her qualification, age, and giving the name of a matron for reference.

Thanking you for giving publicity to this letter, I remain,

Yours faithfully,

M. E. SPARSHOTT,

Principal Matron.

Territorial Force Nursing Service,
Second Western General Hospital.
Royal Infirmary, Manchester.

THE LESSER OF TWO EVILS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The following "par" is significant, cut from a daily paper:—

Society women in London are sending their children's nurses out in neat coats and skirts and bonnets. The hospital uniform for Mary Ann and Louisa Jane is a thing of the past, and we have the war to thank for the passing of it. In these days of Red Cross activity and military nursing, it is inappropriate for a children's nurse to adopt the uniform of the women who are nursing heroes back to life. Society women, so many of whom are serving near the front, have acquired too much respect for the nurses' uniform to let their maids wear it. The modern children's nurse, to be strictly in fashion, must wear nothing approaching uniform. Mrs. Winston Churchill, it may be noted, was among the first to adopt the new standard of respect for the nurses' cloak.

Personally, and speaking in the name of other trained nurses, I feel our "cloth" is safer with "Mary Ann and Louisa Jane"—who, after all, are caring tenderly for little children—than when worn by untrained Society women posing as trained nurses and "serving near the front," and who, instead of "nursing heroes back to life," are by their ignorance and self-sufficiency causing

much discomfort to suffering soldiers, by professing a knowledge they do not possess.

Yours truly,

JANE C. WATSON.

THE TRAINING OF MIDWIVES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am very glad to learn from your valuable paper that the Central Midwives Board are in favour of lengthening the term of training required of pupil-midwives from three to six months. The former period is hopelessly inadequate, and only results in cramming pupils with information of which the greater portion is forgotten by the majority as soon as the examination is over. This result is very undesirable, as it is certainly not the intention of the Board that midwives shall regard the examination as something which must be got through to pacify the idiosyncrasies of examiners but which has no important relation to their subsequent work; for every item of knowledge required to be taught under the syllabus of the Board has a practical bearing on the everyday work of the midwife. I hope that for the present, at any rate, the syllabus will not be altered, so that more time may be given for pupils to absorb the teaching given in regard to it.

I hope, too, that if the six months' term is adopted it will be regarded as a step in the right direction rather than as final, for most teachers of midwives are agreed that in the case of those who are not already trained nurses, one year is the least period which it is desirable to enforce.

Yours faithfully,

CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

NOTICE.

We have received a letter signed "The Nursing Staff," purporting to come from the staff of the Millicent Sutherland Ambulance, Dunkirk. As we do not publish anonymous communications, unless accompanied by the name or names of the senders, we shall be obliged if the writers of this letter will either sign it or send their names as a guarantee of good faith.

OUR ADVERTISERS.

We would remind our readers that they can help THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING by dealing as far as possible with advertisers in the paper, and getting their friends to do likewise. Only the most reliable firms are accepted by the management.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

April 17th.—Describe the condition of urine in Cystitis, Bright's Disease, Hydro-nephrosis, Rheumatism, and Diabetes.

April 24th.—Describe the various kinds of fractures, and their complications.

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