

## 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 MARKET VALUE OF SKILLED NURSING.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—May I make some remarks in regard to the question of salary in war-time. I am a private nurse, and for home reasons require my full salary of 42s. or 30s. It will be a great help if this sum can be secured to us at other work. But war nursing means hospital nursing, without the responsibility, often discomforts, and expenses of private work. I am willing to work under the Army Service for their standard salary, about £40, and I consider that those who object to this should not neglect the private patient at this time. Army nurses and hospital Sisters (often at a salary of £30) are quite as well trained as we private nurses, so how can we command a higher fee? I should be interested to hear contributors' views on this question.

Yours sincerely,

Edinburgh.

RUTH WILSON.

## NURSING AFTER THE WAR.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I, for one, now feel how negligent I have been in the past, not to have done more to press forward State Registration, as, after the war, the position of the private nurse will be even more difficult than it was before, and we nurses "getting on" will soon be made to feel ourselves superfluous.

I hold a three years' certificate from "Bart's," for which I worked hard and happily for four years, but this week forty short-term probationers—the majority of whom have no need to work at all—are to be admitted for a few weeks' experience in that ancient hospital, so that they may be eligible for duty in military hospitals at a salary of £20, which very few probationers ever receive; and no doubt, at the end of their year's "training," the less conscientious will flood the private nursing world by this short and amusing cut.

Who suggested this system of disruption? The Army Medical Service or the Army Nursing Board? As both are really governed by men, I suppose it does not matter which?

Anyway, without registration, we elder women must be ready to flit as soon as Peace is declared. The competition of the Surface Nurse, of good social position, who will, no doubt, get all the patronage from the local medical practitioners she requires (as she is doing in the Voluntary hospitals at present), will mean destitution for many of us.

Yours truly,

MEMBER BART.'S LEAGUE.

[As the depreciation of nursing standards of training has been inspired by the Army Medical

Department at the War Office, the Nursing Profession must appeal very earnestly to Parliament to protect its efficiency, and the general public from the disastrous results of this short-sighted policy. Unless the title of "Registered Nurse" is granted to thoroughly trained and qualified nurses, and *legally protected*, the nursing profession will have suffered a blow from which it will take a decade to recover. This is the direct result of male employers dominating the economic condition of women's skilled work.—ED.]

## NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT SETS EXAMPLE TO BRITISH WAR OFFICE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I enclose cutting from a New Zealand paper, which may interest you, as showing the salaries paid by the New Zealand Government to the nurses now on their way to this country. You will notice that the nurses' rates are £100 per annum, almost the £2 2s. per week standard. As you know, in New Zealand the Registration Act has been in force many years.

Yours faithfully,

E. M. PARKER,

New Zealand Registered Nurse,  
M.R.B.N.A.

Stronbar, Balquhider, N.B.

## REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Miss M. E. Katsch.—Members of the French Flag Nursing Corps must be of British Nationality born of British parents.

Miss B. James.—Apply to the Secretary, Colonial Nursing Association, Imperial Institute, S.W.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

May 15th.—Give a classification of wounds. Describe *three* of the classes named.

May 22nd.—What are the most frequent sites of tuberculous disease in children. What can nursing do to prevent it?

May 29th.—Give three essentials in the nursing care of the mother during the first week of the puerperium.

## FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

Candidates for the French Flag Nursing Corps for service in France, from the country, can be interviewed by arrangement with Lady Barclay, 60, Nevern Square, London, S.W. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will be at 431, Oxford Street, W., on Monday, May 10th, from 2.30 to 5 p.m., to interview candidates. Candidates must be well educated and hold a certificate for three years' training. Fever experience is a great advantage. Nurses speaking French are preferred.

## OUR ADVERTISERS.

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