

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.

PASSED BY ON THE OTHER SIDE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Knowing your paper to be one of the most influential journals devoted to the interests of the Nursing world I venture to bring the following fact to your notice in the hope that you may find room somewhere in the columns of your next issue to refer to the incident and deplore that such action could be possible in women wearing nurses' uniform in a public street and under circumstances where they were so well qualified to render temporary assistance.

I turned out of Stratford Place this morning about 11 a.m. going west. Just as I reached Oxford Street a perfectly respectably dressed man fell on the pavement some twenty yards in front of me obviously in a fit. Having never done any nursing, attended first-aid lectures or been called upon to give help without the aid of qualified instruction, my first impulse was to go straight to the policeman on point duty and bring him to the man. At the moment the policeman usually to be found close at hand was not there and I saw approaching three nurses all in a well-known brown uniform. I hurried up to these women, they were not mere girls, explained what had happened, that there was no policeman just at hand and I was going on to fetch one. I believe my words were: "I think you can do something, a man has fallen in a fit and there is no policeman about, I am going on to find one." You can perhaps imagine my surprise when they all crossed the road, two stood at the island a moment watching the crowd and then deliberately walked away on the other side of the street. Fortunately another person, more nimble than myself, had realised the necessity of action and while I was ringing the bell of a soldiers' hospital in Stratford Place he and a policeman were hurrying to the spot. I would like to say also that another nurse, this time in the more usual blue uniform, had gone to help the poor fellow. Moving constantly about the streets of London one sees many sights that set one thinking but nothing I have ever witnessed so far has equalled the utter callousness of those three nurses in the recognised brown uniform. As I said at the beginning of my letter, if it were known that such action was brought to the notice of an influential Nursing journal and adversely criticised therein, it might give the Nursing Profession as a whole a finer sense of humanity.

Yours faithfully,

D. C. BIGGS.

ECONOMY WITH EFFICIENCY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am in hearty accordance with "The Woman Who Stayed at Home" as to the need of economy in institutions at the present anxious time. Hearty co-operation in this matter by all members of the staff, from the highest to the lowest, would be very practical patriotism. Too often a bad example is set by the office, where the stationery, &c., is generally of an unnecessarily superior character. The Ward Sister in ordering stores, the Matron in dispensing them, the nurses in using them, have all a share in this responsibility. Drugs can be husbanded, instruments protected from careless usage, and in many other ways hospital property can be more conscientiously safeguarded. I am aware that in some institutions cheese-paring is pushed to its farthest limit, but against this, I fear, that in others there is much sheer waste.

I should like to hear from some of your readers practical suggestions on economies, small and great.

Yours faithfully,

THE RELICT OF JOHN GILPIN.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Bewildered.—The procedure is first to apply at the Passport Office, Foreign Office, Downing Street, S.W., for an application form. This must then be filled in by the applicant, duly attested according to the directions given and returned to the Passport Office with two unmounted photographs of the applicant, on one of which her name and address must be written and certified by the same person who attested her application. If everything is in order the passport will be ready the morning after the application form has been sent in. The applicant must apply for it personally at the Passport Office.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

September 18th.—What practical suggestions can you make for checking waste, or effecting economies, in hospital and poor law infirmary administration?

September 25th.—How would you allay irritation of the skin caused by iodine, mustard plaster, and soap and water enema?

FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

Candidates for the French Flag Nursing Corps service in France can be interviewed by arrangement with the Hon. Secretary, 60, Nevein Square, Earl's Court, S.W. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will be at 431, Oxford Street, W., on Friday, September 17th, from 2.30 to 5 p.m., to see candidates, who must be well educated and hold a certificate for three years' general training. Experience in fever nursing and massage are an additional advantage.

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.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)