

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.

GREAT NEED OF NURSES IN THE POOR LAW.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I note you have several times drawn attention to the fact that whilst swarming into military hospitals and wards, the "ardent patriot" type of nurse appears to have no inclination to care for the sick either in Poor Law infirmaries, or in the district, that the sufferings of poor women and children, often dear to our soldier men, are quite a negligible quantity. This is the nastiest feature in the whole question, and is somewhat disgusting to the average hardworking nurse. Take this case: In this crude neighbourhood we have only workhouse wards for our indigent sick people; the Matron is young and inexperienced (the wife of the master, of course); the doctor a hard-worked man not overburdened with sympathy for the poor. Some of the wards are outlying, dark and lonely places, where very little sunshine from either Heaven or earth penetrates. The old and lonely, and those suffering the slow pangs of death inch by inch pass here days and nights with very little attention. Most of the women in the district should know of this state of things, and should do something to compel the Local Government Board to effect changes and reforms, but apparently these ladies, old and young, neither know nor care. Can you wonder that we infirmity drudges have small faith in their protestations of patriotism now that they are all agog, dressed in our uniform, or rushing hither and thither after the "Tommies," many of them far better in health than the dying wrecks we have to attend. Recently one poor man died in the night of hæmorrhage; half his neck was eaten away with malignant disease, and he had never received a visit, a flower, or a gift from any outside "angel of mercy" for the year I have been here on duty. When I saw the pool of blood on the floor in the morning I tell you I felt like exposing all this emotionalism. Surely in passing, that poor soul must have realised all the colossal human vanity that goes to make the "patriotic" nurse. I do implore genuinely sympathetic women to look into this workhouse nursing question, and come and help.

Yours truly,

A FOLLOWER OF AGNES JONES.

NURSES' BED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—I beg to appeal to all nurses—trained, untrained, or in training, married or single, on

duty or retired, male or female—to send a donation for a bed to be named "Nurses' Bed" for the Women's Hospital in Serbia.

£50 is the sum necessary to name and maintain a bed for one year, so while many of our nurses are away on active service doing their "bit," let us consider it our privilege heartily and willingly to contribute any sum from 1s. upwards, kindly adding 1d. for acknowledgment of same at once, and for notice when sum wanted is realised.

Please, each nurse, help by making it known to other nurses, and let us have the bed quickly, as beds are most urgently required.

The total amount when collected will be sent to the Hon. Treasurer of the S.W.H., Mrs. Laurie, Red House.

Any donations will be most gratefully received by me.

I am, &c.,

(Miss) KNOX CRAWFORD (Nurse).

13, Grange Terrace, Edinburgh.

PASSED BY ON THE OTHER SIDE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—How very discreditable to our cloth is the incident witnessed in Oxford Street and described by "D. C. Biggs" in your last issue. If the writer recognised their uniform, as I gather he did, surely it is his duty to report the matter to the head of the institution to which they belong. Such women are little needed in the nursing profession.

Yours,

ESTHER C. TRUEMAN.

London.

[We once knew of a similar case, and called the nurse to account. Her reply was: "Such cases are nearly always shams, and involve one in police court proceedings." A thoroughly selfish reply.—ED.]

FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

Candidates for the French Flag Nursing Corps service in France can be interviewed by arrangement with the Hon. Secretary, 60, Nevern Square, Earl's Court, S.W. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will be at 431, Oxford Street, W., on Friday, September 24th, 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 is an additional advantage.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

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

October 2nd.—Tell what you know of new hospital treatments.

October 9th.—What is preventive nursing, and how can it be employed for the good of the community?

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