

## 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.*

## NEW ZEALAND NURSES OBJECT TO UNSKILLED HANDLING FOR WOUNDED ANZACS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—I enclose my subscription for THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, which I appreciate more and more as time goes on. I feel strongly that nurses can never be sufficiently grateful for all that has been done by its editor to uphold their profession against all opposition. I am forwarding to you reports of the movement in New Zealand to send untrained women to the front, and am glad to say that so far the scheme has not succeeded. New Zealand can supply many more trained nurses if they are required, and our Association (the New Zealand Trained Nurses' Association) has assured the Minister for Hospitals at Wellington that at present there is no need to place our sick and wounded in any but capable hands.

Yours faithfully,

J. MELITA JONES, R.N.

Hon. Sec. Central Council N.Z.T.N.A.

[We deal with this question under "Nursing and the War." The suggestion that New Zealand should send a corps of uncertificated nurses or first aid workers to base hospitals in Egypt or elsewhere has been disapproved by the Imperial Military Authorities, who have already sent hundreds from England. In New Zealand the trained nurses are registered by the State, and their protest has received due recognition.—ED.]

## WHY SISTER?

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—“A Mere Woman” is right, in resenting the snobbish attitude of voluntary workers in Red Cross organization towards the “paid nurse!” The question is—What is the country paying for? In my opinion, highly skilled supplementary medical and surgical skill—work, without which that of the medical profession in war would inevitably be waste labour. We do not hear of voluntary male workers in Red Cross work—and they are doing great service in many directions—talking about “paid doctors,” or assuming their dearly won professional titles. But the snobocracy of women, from the peerage to the mill hand, who profess to help the wounded are imbued with this contempt for the skilled work of the trained nurse, because, forsooth, they give their work, and the trained nurse is paid. After all, what do they give but unskilled help, for which they have never paid a cent for efficient

training, and is often not worth a bawbee. I am working in a Red Cross hospital, where the untrained Commandant—a girl young enough to be my daughter—insists upon all the “volunteers” being called “Sister,” whether titled dames or domestics. *I won't do it*, and I advise certificated nurses to protest against the custom.

Yours truly,

A SISTER OF TEN YEARS' STANDING.

## FOR VALOUR.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Every word of your article on the Air Raid was welcomed in this hospital, where during the bombardment the patients suffered greatly from shock, and the nurses behaved superbly *under fire*—as they always do. We are wondering if, owing to the “hush policy,” the courage of the nursing staff will be quietly ignored, and nothing in the way of Royal Red Crosses come our way. The assistant matron of this hospital, who was on duty on the night of the raid, and who was a splendid example to the whole staff, well deserves a decoration from the Fount of All Honour, when next he is giving out rewards “for valour.”

Yours sincerely,

JUSTICE.

## COME AND HELP.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—One of the most important resolutions to be proposed and considered by the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, at its annual meeting on October 5th, is that on Poor Law Nursing, when Miss Gibson will urge that the Local Government Board shall establish a Nursing Service, by which means, not only would the supply of nurses be efficiently regulated, but a status be given to Poor Law Nursing. Those of us who have worked on for many years and seen decided improvements in Poor Law institutions, feel strongly that we must have the active initiative of the Local Government Board if further improvements are to take place. Such initiative is due to the memory of that sainted woman, Agnes Jones.

Yours truly,

A POOR LAW MATRON.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

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

October 16th.—Describe the most modern methods of treating Hip Disease.

October 23rd.—What is a “saline” (saline fluid); give its uses, and describe the method of giving a rectal saline?

October 30th.—State briefly what you know of the symptoms and treatment of Thrush, Snuffles and Convulsions in the newly-born.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)