

## 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 MURDER OF MISS CAVELL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The suggestion made by Mr. Macleod Yearsley as to whether every English-woman should not refuse ever to nurse another German officer, but leave them to be looked after by orderlies—seeing that Miss Cavell, who had been nursing German officers, suffered the death penalty at the hands of their colleagues—is one which many nurses will instinctively sympathize with.

But, at the same time, I cannot think it is a course which we ought to adopt. It is contrary to the whole spirit of the Red Cross, which enjoins all nurses to care for the wounded of the belligerents as carefully as for their own. We shall go far astray if we deviate from the fundamental law of our profession, which is to be influenced by nothing but the need of the patient of our services. Directly these are made conditional on worthiness, instead of need, our ethical outlook becomes hopelessly wrong.

Let retribution be meted out to those responsible for the death of Miss Cavell, and let it be sharp and stern. But it should be administered by the Government or the military authorities, not vicariously by trained nurses upon the sick and wounded.

Yours faithfully,  
EMILY J. MORTON.

## SEX NO SHIELD.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—I think that certain writers on the subject of the execution of Miss Cavell are lowering womanhood's standards of independence, dignity and courage; especially is this true of those ideals as they are materialised in the nursing profession.

To assist in restoring effectives to the fighting line is an act so glorious for us and so damaging to the enemy that death is no more than an adequate reward.

A woman big enough to dare as did Miss Cavell could neither be ignorant of this probable result nor unwilling to meet it; surely, then, she would deprecate the much-published inference that her sex should have been her shield.

The officer who shot her did, in my opinion, a merciful act. Imagine the alternative! to be restored to consciousness only to re-prepare for so dreaded a fate.

Yours truly,  
HELEN A. HAMILTON.

## THE FALSIFICATION OF CERTIFICATES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In reading the accounts of the proceedings of the Central Midwives' Board in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, I am surprised—and I must say shocked—to see how often the falsification of birth and other certificates by examination candidates is reported to the Board. Where this falsification is deliberate, with intent to deceive, surely the mere postponement of the acceptance of the candidate for six months is a quite inadequate penalty. The Board requires—and it is most essential—that candidates for its examination must be "trustworthy, sober, and of good moral character." If a woman is capable of a deliberate fraud in August, it would be a bold person who, knowing the facts, would certify her as "trustworthy" in February. Character does not change so quickly.

I have the honour of certified midwives keenly at heart, and I should like to see the portals to the profession of midwifery guarded much more closely when admission is sought to it by persons proved to be so unprincipled and fraudulent.

I am, dear Madam,  
Yours faithfully  
CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

November 6th.—State what you know about the physiology of the open-air treatment.

November 13th.—What are the symptoms of mental failure, and what is the nursing treatment?

November 20th.—How may nurses and midwives help to diminish the mortality amongst infants, and children under five years of age?

November 27th.—What devices can a nurse employ in caring for a patient suffering from sleeplessness?

## FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

Candidates for the French Flag Nursing Corps Service in France can be interviewed by arrangement with the Hon. Secretary, 60, Nevcrn Square, Earl's Court, S.W. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will be at 431, Oxford Street, W., on Friday, October 29th, and Monday, November 1st, 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 is an additional advantage.

## NOTICE.

The Editor's correspondence has now reached such dimensions that she is obliged to ask all correspondents to enclose a stamp for an answer when one is asked for, otherwise it is impossible for her to reply.

## 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.

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