

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 CAVELL NURSING COLLEGE AT BRUSSELS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I feel I must write to thank you for your excellent letter in the *Daily Telegraph*, in reference to the training and education of Belgian nurses. This would be a fitting Memorial to the noble Englishwoman, who has laid down her life for the cause of righteousness and everything that makes life worth living.

Yours sincerely,
J. B. S. WATSON,
Rector.

Upham, Southampton.

HOW OUR OFFICERS ARE NURSED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In reference to "An Indefensible System" on page 390 of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING last week, what have you to say to this? At a large nursing home here in the West End of London the senior partner, a nurse of distinction, has decided to take in officers. She has filled the place with V.A.D. people, who give the impression that the patients are nursed by a chorus of nurses from the Gaiety. But she has made all these "nurses" take off their red crosses and assume Army Sister's caps, even including the housekeeper. Part of the home is still devoted to private nursing, and the nurses (who are properly trained) are naturally furious. One informed me that a V.A.D. being asked to get ready a rectal tube asked "what it was for," and another, when told to give some saline remarked, "Let me see, I must put salt into that, mustn't I?" It seems to me that whilst Tommy is being well cared for, his officer is, in many cases, being made the sport of the gifted amateurs.

Can't this be stopped?

Yours truly,
INDIGNANT.

[So long as this system is permitted by the Army Medical Department of the War Office it cannot be stopped. We know officers who most strongly object to being attended by untrained women. One remarked to us recently, "It's simply indecent," and we agree with him. We are informed that a nurse "returned with thanks" from a Red Cross Hospital as "impossible" was next day sent on duty at the Endsleigh Palace Hospital for Officers. Instead of the nursing of our officers being under the supervision and in the hands of highly skilled nurses, quite the reverse is often the case. If only their women folk were not so ignorant about qualified nursing, and

qualified nurses were registered, this deplorable conditions of affairs could be remedied. At present all is chaos.—Ed.]

"FROST BITE" IN THE TRENCHES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—It is generally admitted that this condition, which proved so serious a source of suffering and loss amongst our troops last winter was due to the defective leg-wear provided by the authorities.

The puttee, which is in many respects an admirable covering, being warm, elastic, fairly impermeable and a good protective against cold, damp, thorns, branches and dense undergrowth, has the fatal defect due to the means of fastening which consists of a long inelastic tape which must be wound tightly round the leg just below the knee, thus interfering with the blood circulation, especially when the material shrinks under the influence of moisture, inevitable in the trenches in winter.

Early in the spring of the present year the *Lancet* and the *British Medical Journal* called attention to this matter and invited their readers to suggest a fastening that would be free from the defects of the tape.

I devised a very simple "hook-pin" and submitted it to the Editor of the *British Medical Journal*, who wrote in the issue of June 12th, "it appears not only completely to answer the purpose in respect of puttees, but is likely also to replace the safety-pin for fixing bandages."

If this device is to prove of real value to our troops and to our wounded soldiers in the hospitals, it is essential that it should be tested as widely and thoroughly as possible and at once.

I have had a number of these hook-pins made and will gladly send a specimen to any wearer of puttees, or to any nurse or surgeon, or to anyone interested who has a friend acting in either capacity.

I am, yours obediently,
C. R. RUTLAND, M.D.

83A, Chester Square, S.W.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

November 20th.—How many 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, Nevein Square, Earl's Court, S.W. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will be at 431, Oxford Street, W., on Friday, November 12th, and Monday, November 15th, 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.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)