

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.

IN THE TRENCHES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The correspondence in the *Manchester Courier* on Nurses' Registration has aroused no end of interest in Manchester and round about, and we nurses in this hospital beg to thank you for fighting our battles. So few nurses can express what they feel, or write a letter fit for the press, that our side gets pushed aside, and so few have the courage of their opinions—peace at any price is often our policy, and support the powers that be. Our dependence makes this fight seem so hopeless. I was speaking to a Territorial nurse the other evening, and she said "Of course I am in favour of registration—so is every well trained nurse I know, but how can discipline be maintained in a hospital, when the Matron and Committee oppose it, if the nursing staff agitate for it? And in a military hospital one is not supposed to have any opinions, much less express them—especially if the Principal Matron is agitating in opposition. Personally I do not think nurses can do much to help themselves, as so many of their employers are determined to deny them freedom of action. The public should enquire into the Nursing question: they would soon come up against our economic disabilities."

This is how many nurses feel, but we have been talking it over, and wish for papers about Registration, as we feel it is unfair you should have been in the trenches all these years and so many of us slackers at home.

Yours truly,
A MANCHESTER NURSE.

[Papers, of course, have been sent. We like that touch about the trenches. There is no doubt that those who have been "at the Front" in the registration campaign for 27 years know well the nerve strain of such a struggle, and the "poison gas" of the "anti" enemy is by no means the least pernicious of his weapons!—ED.]

MIDWIVES' TOTAL ABSTINENCE WAR LEAGUE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of May 8th, an account was given of the Midwives' Total Abstinence War League which had been formed to enable midwives to voice themselves as a body on this subject.

Over a thousand signatures have come in, which proves that many realise the value of such action, but I am sure we should have had a more repre-

sentative number from this professional body of women workers if they had realised:

Firstly, that though total abstainers their names should be added to the list in support of the action of their fellow workers to give weight to the scheme.

Secondly, the value of ACTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL in signing for total abstinence. Combined individual action makes unity and unity strength, and it is as a body we shall have the greatest power to help our country in this matter or any other, and there are many just now which touch us very closely.

Therefore every midwife in sympathy with this movement for abstinence should sign at once. It is a little thing to do!! and if the individuals will not sacrifice so small a matter for their country's sake how can we hope for greater action on their part: and great sacrifice as well as great deeds must be made to save our country in this crisis. Let us midwives prove we realise the value of UNITED ACTION by having a big total of signatures. A pledge form is given below and the time for sending in is extended to July 31st.

ELSIE HALL,

Direct Representative of Practising Midwives on the Council of Midwives' Institute.

PLEDGE OF TOTAL ABSTINENCE.

I undertake to abstain from all alcohol* until the termination of the war.

Name

Address

Date

*Alcohol ordered by a medical practitioner excepted.

Signatures (which need not of necessity be on the pledge form, so long as the pledge is copied) should be sent into the Midwives' Institute, 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C., with "M.T. A.L." written on the envelope, not later than July 31st. If written on the pledge form, 1/4 stamp is sufficient.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

July 24th.—Give the signs and symptoms in a case of placenta prævia. What are the risks to mother and child? What general management would you adopt?

July 31st.—Name two communicable diseases, and state the manner in which the infection is carried.

NOTICE.

In the list of new members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, published on July 3rd, Miss E. Hanley (3559) should read Miss E. Hanby.

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