

lectures on Home Nursing taking a nurse with him to demonstrate an art of which he has only read! Surely nothing could be more wrong. Can we as highly skilled professional women permit our educational curriculum to be defined and controlled by people who know nothing about it, and have no right whatever to interfere with us. Why will not these kindly intentioned people who are naturally distressed at the present nursing muddle, help us to organize it in our own way, as we have been clamouring to do for the past quarter of a century? We know, as it has been tried and failed, that any voluntary system as proposed in Mr. Stanley's letter is merely a palliative and not a cure for the disease of disorganization. Let the Joint War Committee use its influence to get the Nurses' Registration Bill passed into law—for such help we should be thankful. But interference and control by any lay committee will compel us to a lively protest.

It is curious that whilst one half of Europe is fighting against Germany because she wishes to force the world to adopt what *she* thinks is best for it, there is a group of well-meaning men and women in England who wish to do the same with trained nurses. When will leisured people learn that those most concerned are most likely to know their own needs?

I am, dear Madam,
Yours sincerely,
MARY BURR.

Montreux, Switzerland.

[We are informed that owing to the urgent demands made by the War Office, and the lack of medical practitioners able to spare sufficient time for such matters, the Association has temporarily approved of the employment of lay instructors who hold certain qualifications (a Medallion and two Labels obtained since 1912) to act as lecturers on behalf of the Association in First Aid.—Ed.]

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I, for one, desire to protest against the Joint War Committee assuming any professional responsibility for the Nursing Profession in this country. It has no qualifications whatever for organizing our education or maintaining discipline in our ranks; and it has no mandate from its subscribers to spend money either in office room, stamps, stationery or clerical work for such a purpose. It is the trustee of money subscribed by a generous public for the care of the sick and wounded, and not one penny should be spent for any other purpose; it has nothing whatever to do with nursing politics. May I request you to find space for this letter this week, if possible, as I and others feel very strongly on this point.

Yours truly,
North Finchley. ELLEN B. KINGSFORD.

ORDERLIES IN MILITARY HOSPITALS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I read with mixed feelings your article (in a recent issue) entitled "Our Orderlies," by "Ward Sister." As an educated man, who became an orderly for the period of the War, I beg to be allowed space in your valuable paper to voice my opinion as an orderly. Some misunderstanding seems to exist between the Ward Sisters and the Orderlies of the R.A.M.C. I should like to take this opportunity of saying that we, like men of the fighting regiments, resigned our situations in civil life, to be at the call of our country. May I say that, if the majority of the men of the R.A.M.C. knew the duties they would be called upon to perform (before they enlisted), they would have given the R.A.M.C. a very wide berth. I ask, in all fairness as a man who is pronounced fit by the medical authorities, is it right that I should be cleaning brasses (as referred to by "Ward Sister"), whilst my comrades at the Front are risking their lives daily? In reply to "Ward Sister," I would suggest that (apart from nursing abilities), the orderlies in our hospitals are equally as educated as the sisters to whom they are sent for training. Of every R.A.M.C. orderly who reads this letter, I would ask, what has been your training in hospital? There are hundreds of orderlies who have been drafted to the Front, whose only training in hospital has been with scrubbing brush and pail. In summing up, I would suggest that "Ward Sister's" letter was not logical, as the last statement contradicted all that preceded it. I will also take the liberty of saying that this letter is written by one who would prefer to write in this strain than use such unladylike expressions as "Ward Sister" did. I take pleasure in enclosing my full name and hospital where I am stationed.

I am, Madam,
Yours very respectfully,

HORACE BRIGGS,
Evington Military Hospital, Pte., R.A.M.C.T.
Leicester.

FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

Candidates for the French Flag Nursing Corps Service in France can be interviewed on Fridays, 11th and 18th February, 2.30 to 5 p.m., at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., or by arrangement with the Hon. Secretary. Candidates must be well educated and hold a certificate for three years' general training, which they should bring for inspection. Experience in fever nursing is an additional advantage, also a knowledge of French.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

February 19th.—Describe (a) the symptoms and (b) the nursing of cerebro-spinal fever.

February 26th.—What are the more common causes of neurasthenia? Mention some of the more common symptoms.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)