

## 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.*

## NURSES FOR ZANZIBAR.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Bishop Weston cables to us from Zanzibar:—

"Appeal for nurses publicly, remembering possible wounded."

This means that he requires two certificated nurses to go at once to Zanzibar, and to be prepared for the additional probable work entailed by the town becoming a base for the reception of men wounded in the German East African campaign. The "conditions" under which the services of nurses can be accepted by the Bishop will be supplied on application to the Secretary of the Mission at 9, Dartmouth Street, Westminster, who will also be prepared to answer questions personally.

Yours truly,

E. F. RUSSELL,

DUNCAN TRAVERS,

Commissaries.

9, Dartmouth Street, S.W.

## PROFESSIONAL HOME RULE FOR IRISH NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Having read the article, "Home Rule for Irish Nurses," in this week's JOURNAL, I should like, as a member of the Irish Nurses' Association, to protest against the assertion that members who do not agree on all points with the policy of the majority should "cease to be members." We do not wish to exclude members because our opinions differ. Our association has other aims besides State Registration.

Personally, I am and always have been a strong advocate of State Registration, but will always uphold the right of individual members to express their opinions.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

ALICE REEVES.

Royal Victoria Eye  
and Ear Hospital,  
Dublin.

[Our correspondent has not read quite correctly our remarks last week on this point. What we wrote in relation to the policy of a trio of Matron members of the Irish Nurses' Association, trained at St. Thomas' Hospital, London, was as follows: "Now we find this little St. Thomas' group of Matrons in Dublin attempting to over-ride the considered official policy of the Irish Nurses' Association (on State Registration). Such a position is, in our opinion, totally indefensible, and

we advise Irish nurses to make it quite plain to this anti-registration minority that if they are not in favour of the avowed policy of the Association, they can either cease to be members, or they must bow to the conscientious convictions of the overwhelming majority." We still think this is sound advice where a fundamental principle of the constitution of any Association is concerned. The Irish Nurses' Association has stood unwaveringly for legal status for nurses since its inception, no one need join it who disapproves of the conscientious convictions which have inspired its members for years, and for which they have worked devotedly and paid heavily. We, for instance, should not join any Association which had repeatedly voted against the vital principle of State Registration of Nurses—that, of course, would be unthinkable; but those who do join Associations to the fundamental principles of which they cannot subscribe, have no right to oppose such principles *inside* an Association, and cause friction and ill-feeling. In the particular instance of the Irish Nurses' Association, it appears to us specially undesirable that Englishwomen appointed to high office in Irish hospitals should do so.—Ed.]

The Editor regrets that several letters are held over this week.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

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

March 4th.—Give directions for giving medicine so as to prevent accidents.

March 11th.—(a) What is intestinal colic? (b) What are the common causes? (c) What is the usual treatment?

March 18th.—Why has the Cocaine Habit such ruinous results to health?

March 25th.—What care should refrigerators receive? How would you preserve ice?

## FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

Candidates for the French Flag Nursing Corps Service in France can be interviewed on Fridays, February 18th and 25th, 2.30 to 4.30 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 and massage are additional advantages, also a knowledge of French.

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