

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.

"NURSING A DEAD ART."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I note a correspondent, writing under "Nursing a Dead Art," objects to the unskilled work of the V.A.D.'s abroad being so highly paid—and that these girls, without even giving time for training, are costing the country such a huge sum. I also feel strongly how unjust it is that I should have given four years of the best years of my life to fit me to be a trained nurse, when any girl with a few weeks in a hospital may assume a State-protected uniform and be given almost identical duties as those I perform. Let us hope a day of reckoning is coming, and that when we all come back to civil work after the War, we may have the sense to combine to protect what few professional rights we have got. Once free from military service, which has been made very distasteful to me by all this injustice, I intend to give all the time I can spare to work for State Registration, so that I may help to win the legal title of "registered nurse" for those who have a right to protection. Until this War I never realised how miserably we trained nurses are neglected. Surely, we deserve as much consideration as midwives—who, after all, give as many months as we do years to qualify for their work. There is nothing like feeling the pinch—and we trained women have, indeed, felt it during this War. I hope THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, which is the only nurses' paper which cares about justice, will continue its splendid work on our behalf.

Yours truly,
T. F. N. SISTER.

SOUTH AFRICAN TRAINED NURSES ASSOCIATION AND STATE REGISTRATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I see it being advocated that nurses in the United Kingdom shall follow in South African footsteps and form an Association of Trained Nurses. May I point out that before we attempted to organise on a national basis the nurses in the Union of South Africa, we had State Registration in every State, and that the basis of our organisation is legal status. Every nurse must be registered before she is eligible for membership of the South African Trained Nurses Association. Without this provision effective organisation would be impossible. I have read eagerly your reports on the proposal to form a Voluntary Nursing College, to include a system of registration. This appears to me a hopeless suggestion in these days. It merely means putting off indefinitely the passing of a Bill to give the nurses in the United Kingdom legal registration—a privilege

they have been pleading for for so many years. Let the Bill be agreed on and by united effort let it be made law, then will be the time to successfully establish educational establishments, and to organise a really National Association of Nurses. Like the British Medical Association, it must be rooted in legal status.

Yours truly,

A SOUTH AFRICAN SISTER.

[We entirely agree with our correspondent, and we may add that reciprocity with British Dominions overseas is now impracticable without injustice to colonially trained nurses who are State Registered.—ED.]

WOMEN'S DEFENCE RELIEF CORPS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—I have been told by nurses who worked for farmers last year that the change of occupation from the too-much-sitting of their profession is beneficial. Already many nurses have joined this corps, to give their holidays to work at saving the hay, corn, fruit, &c., this summer, and I hope you will make the existence of this organization known to your readers.

Lord Selborne (President of the Chamber of Agriculture), writing with regard to a lecture given by our members on their experiences as "farm labourers," said he "trusted it would help the corps to further efforts in the work it had undertaken to supply women workers on the land, in place of the men whose services are required in the defence of our country."

Any women willing to enrol with us for this important national work, should send addressed stamped envelope to the Hon. Sec., Miss G. Creamer, 10, Abbey Road, London, N.W.

Arrangements with regard to housing, payment, &c., are made by the corps, and each band has an officer. Our experience last year showed us that farm work can be successfully undertaken by ordinary women without special training. We did not have a single case of illness; on the contrary, those who went have been immune from colds all this winter.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

C. A. DAWSON SCOTT.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

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 Friday, March 17th, 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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