

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 NEED OF PROTECTION FOR TRAINED NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—It will be remembered that at a meeting of the National Council of Trained Nurses held in London on June 17th, 1915, I read a Paper on the necessity of co-operation and protection amongst nurses, and proposed the formation of a Trained Nurses Economic League.

Recent events have, I think, demonstrated how essential such a League is, if we nurses are to protect ourselves in the body politic, as the medical profession have done through the Medical Defence Union: I beg to enclose a *resolution passed on Tuesday by certificated nurses and hope that you will be able to find space for it in our journal this week.

Yours faithfully,

H. HAWKINS,

Acting Hon. Secretary,
Trained Nurses' Economic League.

STATE REGISTRATION FOR TRAINED NURSES AND THE COLLEGE OF NURSING.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—It seems to me the whole question to be considered can be stated in a few words. We all agree the nursing profession is in an unorganized and unsatisfactory condition, and always has been so, as there has been no one standard of training and the profession has had no safeguards; the War has called attention to and has emphasised the fact, and not only the nursing world but the general public now see that some remedy is called for. The Hon. Arthur Stanley suggests a palliative; it is always unsatisfactory to resort to palliatives. What we want is a radical cure. Palliatives often mask symptoms and so delay cure. State Registration seems the only radical and permanent cure. Nurses are such busy people, they have not much time for thinking, but this question so vitally affects us all that we *must* consider it and ask ourselves do we want a palliative or a cure for this unsatisfactory state? Surely the great benefit that State Registration has been to the midwives ought to help us to an answer.

Yours faithfully,

HARLE FOSTER.

Amphill Square, N.W.

* Published on page 277.

LEAVE WELL ALONE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Nurses "at the front" have little time for general reading, though they may make time to read their BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING; may I, therefore, pass on for their benefit an item of interest I have culled for myself from the most interesting paper on the treatment of gunshot wounds read by Sir Berkeley Monihan before the Harveian Society of London, as an item to note and remember. The author says:— "One of the most sensational experiences in connection with all wounds, even the most trivial, is the inordinate length of time that micro-organisms may remain dormant in the tissues long after healing is complete. I have seen tetanus and gas gangrene develop in wounds many weeks after their infliction, when relatively trivial operations were performed on them for the purpose of extracting bullets, shell casing, or fragments of khaki cloth. Even the passive movement of a stiff joint in whose neighbourhood there is a healed wound may light up a raging septic process which threatens or takes the patient's life. It appears to be more especially in cases where compound fractures of bones have occurred at the primary injury that these grave troubles are apt to arise. A knowledge of the danger must warn us always to be on guard against premature surgical interference in wounds recently healed, or in sinuses which fail to close." The moral would seem to be, "Let well alone."

Yours faithfully,

SURGICAL SISTER.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Correspondent, Oxford.—Trained Nurses are now permitted to act as lecturers in Home Nursing on behalf of the St. John Ambulance Association, but not in First Aid, unless they are in possession of the medallion and two labels gained since 1912. Owing to 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 this medallion and two labels acting as lecturers in First Aid.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

April 1st.—How would you arrange for the nursing and comfort of a patient with dropsical legs?

April 8th.—Describe briefly the structure of bone. How is bone nourished?

NOTICE.

If extra copies of this Journal cannot be obtained through newsagents, please order direct from the Secretary, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING Office, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., as it saves time. Price, One Penny weekly, and postage.

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