

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.

INFORMATION REQUIRED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I see that the Council of the College of Nursing are inviting applications from certificated Nurses for the duties of Secretary, at a salary of £250 per annum.

As this is a voluntary scheme, organised by people almost entirely unknown in the professional nursing world, I have been asked by several nurses where the funds for this position are derived from? Also, what security of tenure of office attaches to it? If you can give me any information on these points I shall be glad to hand it on.

Personally, I prefer to have my profession legally organised, having wasted several precious guineas upon a voluntary scheme in the past.

I am, Madam,

Yours faithfully,

ELEANOR FARRINGTON,

Sister.

County of London War Hospital, Epsom.

[We advise you to write to Sir Cooper Perry, Hon. Secretary, College of Nursing, Ltd., 83, Pall Mall, London, S.W., for the information you require. We presume the nurses who pay for voluntary registration will pay.—ED.]

A STATE PROTECTED TITLE IMPERATIVE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—A medical man practising in the West of England not long since, received a visit from a young woman in a very smart and becoming uniform. The purport of her visit was to ask his support in procuring private cases. He at once made enquiries as to her training school and she gave the name of a leading London Hospital, which chanced to be his own. Without disclosing this fact, he further questioned her, and found her absolutely ignorant of the vicinity of the Hospital, the names of the staff or even of the ward of which she represented herself to have been staff nurse. He told her that if she would return the following day, bringing her certificates he would consider the matter. These, she said, she usually carried in her tool bag, but on this occasion they were left behind. Needless to say he has never seen her since, but he heard that previously she had been successful in obtaining work among neighbouring practitioners. The police, further afield, had been looking out for a light fingered "nurse" who had obtained entry to houses, and had left her patients poorer by more than her fees. Here is another argument for

State Registration and the protection of the public.

The medical man in question is a subscriber to the Journal, and is thus more on the alert as to bogus nurses than many of his colleagues.

Yours faithfully,

POOR LAW GUARDIAN.

THE REMUNERATION OF MIDWIVES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Your report of the proceedings at the Penal Session of the Midwives Board in your last issue gives one pause for thought. The defence of one midwife, and a very good defence too, in reply to a charge of having failed to take the necessary appliances to a case, was that she started out with these appliances, but that on a wild snowy night she had to go four miles on her bicycle, and was evidently so buffeted by the blizzard that she arrived at her destination without them.

Only those who know by experience what these journeys through the bitter night wind mean, when a storm is raging, can appreciate the situation, but I should like to point out to the public who lie snugly in their beds while midwives are battling with wind and storm, in order to attend their patients, and who think them highly paid at 10s. 6d. a case, that this journey would have to be performed at least 10 times before the midwife had carried out the requirements of the Central Midwives Board.

To go eighty miles through wind and storm, to take the responsibility of delivering the patient, to attend to the comfort of mother and infant for ten days subsequently—well, opinions differ, but 10s. 6d. or even double that amount can scarcely be considered excessive remuneration, and yet many people wonder why so many of the women, who are certified midwives, do not practise midwifery!

Yours faithfully,

CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

May 6th.—Mention some of the different agents employed in applying counter-irritation, and describe the methods of their application.

May 13th.—Mention some of the causes which may delay delivery in childbirth, and the course you would adopt to assist the patient in each case.

FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

Candidates for the French Flag Nursing Corps Service in France can be interviewed on Friday, April 28th and May 5th, 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, and a knowledge of French are additional advantages.

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