

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.

A DOSE FIT FOR A NURSE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In the early years of the nineteenth century, my great grandmother, if a manservant fell ill, would send round to the apothecary's for a *dose fit for a footman*.

History has a habit of repeating itself, and we are now seeing other great-grandmothers—equally concerned for the health of those beneath them, equally anxious, and equally ignorant—sending round to other apothecaries for a *dose fit for a nurse*.

Did the footman take his dose? History is silent. Shall we take ours? I think that we have had and are daily having an answer to the question, in the expression of indignation which has greeted the offer of that dose. From our own nurses—English, Irish, Scottish—from those at home and those at the Front, from Africa, from Australia, from America, indignant protests against the so-called College of Nursing, under lay nomination and control, have been expressed. We will not take our dose. Why should we?

Already, for many years, we have laboured to evolve the precious remedial measure of State Registration (not State Recognition, save the mark), worth a hundred per cent. more than the wretched bolus offered to us in ignorance. And by that measure we stand.

The time has gone by when the uninformed layman can take charge of professional interests and govern, from a lay standpoint, professional knowledge in any profession. If we nurses are true to ourselves, our profession, and our professional standard at this crisis—if we refuse our dose, the layman *must* give way. Only we must stand firm.

Yours, &c.,

ALBINIA BRODRICK.

GOVERNMENT BY CONSENT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Why not republish the article headed "Government by Consent," which appears over your signature in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING last week, in leaflet form? Thousands of nurses agree with it. I was talking it over with a fellow member of the Barts' League and she said, "The history of our League proves how moderately trained nurses act when they have the responsibility of self-government. What would be the result if the secretary and clerks in the Renter's Office claimed the right to appoint

our President and Executive Committee on terms which empowered them to re-nominate themselves to office year after year?" To which I replied "There would be no Barts League in twenty-four hours' time." "Or," she replied smiling, "no Renter's Office."

Yours faithfully,

A FORMER BARTS SISTER.

"THE LEAST THE NATION CAN DO."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am glad to see that Sir Frederick Milner, who, as you say, is always sympathetic with sick and wounded soldiers, is drawing attention to the very real hardship occasioned when a man is discharged invalided from the Army, his pay and allowances cease, and he has nothing to live upon until his pension is fixed. It may seem a small thing, if he has a prospect of a pension in a few weeks' time; but the only thing that is at all comparable to it is if the income of a man in better circumstances suddenly ceased and he were uncertain when to expect his next dividends. And the situation is not then really on all fours, because the well-to-do man could borrow on his securities, whereas the discharged soldier, with no security to offer but his expectations is invalidated, needing all those little comforts which go so far to alleviate ill-health—but not having the wherewithal in many instances to obtain even the necessaries of life, just when he feels depressed and anxious about the future. Of course; he gets his pension eventually, but why not, as Sir Frederick Milner suggests, continue his pay until his pension becomes payable? It is the least the nation can do to show its gratitude to those who have risked their lives on its behalf, and suffered in so doing.

Yours faithfully,

A GRATEFUL CITIZEN.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

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.

May 20th.—How would you nurse a patient in a continuous bath?

May 27th.—What is uterine inertia? What are its varieties, and how would you treat each kind?

FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

Candidates for the French Flag Nursing Corps Service in France can be interviewed on Fridays, May 5th and 12th, 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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