

## 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 DISORGANISATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I point out to your readers a very important fact, probably overlooked, in regard to this fresh attempt upon the liberties of the nursing profession? Why will not the kindly-intentioned people who are so distressed at present conditions help us to cure disorganisation in our own profession, as we have long wished to do in our own way?

State Registration by a Central Council on which we have direct and sufficient representation would soon produce order out of chaos. It is curious that whilst one half of Europe is fighting against Germany because she wishes to force the world to adopt what she thinks is best for it, there is a group of well-meaning men and women in England who wish to do the same with trained nurses. When will people learn that those most concerned are most likely to know their own needs?

I am, dear Madam,

Yours sincerely,

MARY BURR.

Montreux.

### OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Thank you very much for the cheque for 5s. which I received on Saturday. I am very pleased to have been the recipient of the prize this week from THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. It is a great privilege to have such a progressive journal, and it is most inspiring and helpful to nurses in every branch of the nursing profession. With best thanks,

Yours sincerely,

CATHARINE WRIGHT.

East London Nursing Society,  
198, Cable Street, St. George's-in-the-East.

### A FEW HOME TRUTHS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—I read your paper every week as, in spite of being a despised V.A.D., I know enough to realise its professional value and to appreciate your desire to raise the status of the trained nurse. If I may say so, what the nursing profession is suffering from is lack of education, and the reason why we V.A.D.'s are often preferred by the doctors, to say nothing of the patients, to professionals, is that many nurses not having been brought up in refined homes, begin in hospitals to be taught things we have been taught all our lives—(1) How to associate with men without cringing or familiarity, (2) How to take hold (many of us come

from the governing class), and (3) We have good manners, can speak grammatically, many of us are young and good-looking, some have money which smoothes the way all the world over; others good social connections; and we have a powerful, rich Corporation at our backs. I hope this does not sound snobbish and insolent, but we "uppers" are rather insolent, and the jealousy of women of inferior social status (however highly trained) has aroused a sense of resentment in the bosom of many V.A.D.'s.—although, to be just, it must be somewhat disconcerting to find untrained young women placed in charge of serious cases both medical and surgical, as many of us have been in Egypt and in the Near East, with only a few months' instead of three years' hospital experience, and to be commended by the leading doctors for our skill and success. I daresay if I had been a working bee for years, I should under the circumstances suffer from the green-eyed monster myself. As to registration, why is our work to be ignored? We feel quite sure that in any scheme of registration V.A.D.'s will have to be reckoned with in the future; and I am glad to note that the Matrons of the leading London hospitals, so many of whom are under the War Office, seem to see the wisdom of advancing our claims. Narrow professionalism must be broken down. Knowing your views it has taken some courage to send this letter to THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING; but as seas flow between I make the venture, though no doubt the waste paper basket, and not publication, will be its fate.

Yours sincerely,

A "V.A.D."

[We think registrationists will agree with us that this letter is far too precious for oblivion.—ED.]

### OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

June 3rd.—Describe in detail the methods for the nursing of a severe case of delirium tremens.

June 10th.—What is Trachoma: how is it best treated and cured?

### ORDER THE B.J.N. AT YOUR NEWSAGENT.

In view of the shortage of paper, and the Government appeal for economy in its use, we ask our readers to assist us by placing permanent orders for the regular supply of their copy of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING with their newsagents each week, price 1d. weekly, or by ordering it direct from the Office of the JOURNAL, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., price 6s. 6d. per annum, 3s. 6d. for six months, or 1s. 9d. per quarter, post free.

### OUR ADVERTISERS.

We would remind our readers that they can help THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING by dealing as far as possible with advertisers in the paper, and getting their friends to do likewise. Only the most reliable firms are accepted by the management.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)