

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 ORGANIZATION OF THE NURSING PROFESSION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—How many more attacks are to be made in attempting to govern our profession without consulting us? I remember at least three, which, thanks to your vigilance, have all proved abortive. I can quite believe that during the time the Hon. Arthur Stanley has been Chairman of the Joint War Committee he has noticed lack of organization, but it is not the nurses' fault, but greatly to the discredit of men who govern us without our consent, who have, for a quarter of a century, obstructed every demand upon our part for the passing of our Registration Bill, which provides facilities for us to organize our own work as we ought to be permitted to do.

I have read carefully Mr. Stanley's suggestions and fail to see what would be the use of such a system. First of all, we nurses are deprived of all power of self-government, and then we are put off with a voluntary system which would be the failure it deserves. The time is past for any voluntary scheme, managed by hospital governors and officials who do not maintain us, and have no authority over us, and I, for one, hope the registration party will oppose this new danger, which proposes to reduce us to the position of serfs. It is most unjust that every class working for standards of national health, such as doctors, midwives, chemists and dentists should have State, protection, and because money can be made out of us, that trained nurses are treated worse than domestic servants by the State. Now is the time for us to rise up and make an end of all this tyranny.

Yours truly,
MARY F. SIMMONS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I read Mr. Stanley's letter carefully as you desired in last week's Journal. It would not do us any good. We want an Act of Parliament like other people, doctors and midwives, and I hope we, as a body, shall stick to that. If the Red Cross has anything to do with the new suggestion, I for one should object to it strongly. I don't know who is responsible for the wholesale depreciation of our standards since the war began, the Joint War Committee or the Red Cross Society, but we trained nurses feel very indignant about it. Let us manage our own affairs without charity and patronage.

Yours truly,
MEMBER REGISTERED NURSES' SOCIETY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—After the way my friend Miss Tubbs has been treated—and every other nurse can be injured by autocratic civilians—don't let us be led astray by futile schemes. No effective organisation can be maintained without an Act of Parliament, and why are trained nurses to be neglected for years and years? If midwives can get legal status in war time, why not trained nurses? We have waited long enough and should stir up all over the country. The country owes the nurses a deep debt of gratitude for their care of the Army and Navy, and the best way to pay it is to pass our Registration Bill.

Yours truly,
A MEMBER OF GUY'S HOSPITAL NURSES'
LEAGUE.

NURSES' UNIFORM.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—If protection is accorded to the uniform of the V.A.D.'s, because they are attached to the service of the Crown, then the trained nurses as public servants are entitled to the protection of their uniform by the State, and it is nothing but an outrage that the uniform of the former should be protected from abuse, while that of the trained nurse should be dragged in the mire of Piccadilly and Leicester Square, into the divorce court and into the dock, and the Government does nothing to prevent it. Your correspondent says that until some scheme of nurses' registration is adopted the protection of nurses' uniform is impossible. Quite so, but the registration of trained nurses is quite possible. It is quite as much a matter of public urgency as the registration of midwives in Scotland, the Bill for which the Government put through with the greatest ease.

There could be no moment more urgent for differentiating between the professional and the amateur than the present, and if the Government persists in its deliberate neglect of the interests of trained nurses, it will find that its policy of inaction recoils upon itself.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
AN ADVOCATE OF JUSTICE.

FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

Candidates for the French Flag Nursing Corps Service in France can be interviewed on Fridays, 2.30 to 5 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 is an additional advantage, also a knowledge of French.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

January 22nd.—What are the chief functions of the stomach, intestines, liver and pancreas?

January 29th.—What are the causes of constipation in an infant during the first ten days of its life? How is the condition treated?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)