

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 PROFESSIONAL QUESTION WITH VITAL ISSUES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am sure that every member of the nursing profession must feel grateful to you for your clear and logical criticism of Mr. Stanley's Circular Letter in last week's issue. Many of us are working at such high pressure at the present time, that though feeling instinctively that the suggestions contained in the Letter are dangerous, we should have difficulty in finding time to study it sufficiently to find out exactly in what the danger consists, but your analysis has made that quite clear, and it is to be hoped that Mr. Stanley's Letter will have the effect of stimulating every member of our profession to strain every effort to get the State Registration Bill passed through Parliament and in working order before the end of the War, otherwise the condition of the nursing profession will then be even more chaotic than it was before the War.

I remain, Madam,
Yours truly,
A TERRITORIAL MATRON.

A PUBLIC MEETING SUGGESTED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I had hoped that since that memorable day—March 3rd, 1914—we stood on firmer ground with regard to State Registration; indeed, I think so still, because, if all the men who then voted in favour of the Bill, are good men and true, we are bound to win when the Prime Minister allows time to deal with it. But our opponents are now trying to cut the ground from our feet. I have read and considered the scheme proposed by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, and I am so much impressed by the serious menace of it, that I have written to him and expressed my views. One paragraph is particularly impressive. He calls to mind the fact that the professions of medicine, chartered accountants, surveyors, barristers, solicitors, "and other bodies organise the teaching and examination of candidates for their respective professions," and yet *he gravely proposes that the laity should govern the Profession of Nursing for us!* It is scarcely conceivable, except for the fact that voteless women are not persons, and therefore do not count. I hope that all the readers of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING are alive to the danger of the new scheme. We *must* win, we *must* keep the flag flying in spite of all opposition. Let us not lose courage, but "fight the good fight with all our might." I hope a public meeting of those nurses

who are conscientiously convinced that by Act of Parliament alone can the Profession of Nursing be justly organised, will be called as soon as possible.

BEATRICE KENT.

[The question at issue under the proposed scheme is whether managers of Nursing Schools attached to hospitals shall govern the Nursing Profession—that is, control their educational curriculum and economic condition—or whether trained nurses shall take their rightful share in governing their own profession. This has been the principle around which the twenty-eight years' fight has clashed, and the fight will continue until the Training Schools cease to claim a monopoly of Nursing.

The "advisers" of Mr. Stanley have excluded the organised Matrons' and Nurses' Societies from knowledge that a demand to organise the profession was contemplated, and in his reply to Miss Kent, Mr. Stanley informs her that, "I hope shortly to call a meeting of representatives of recognised training schools and to put before them a more definite scheme than that which it was possible to present in my first letter." Here again we find the Nurses, as apart from the Training Schools, completely ignored. The autocratic attitude of the promoters of this scheme to control us, without consent, sounds a warning note.—ED.]

AN OBVIOUS COURSE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I most cordially endorse the view you express in your editorial article that "no one will be surprised to learn that the Hon. Arthur Stanley, in his position as Chairman of the Joint War Committee, has recognised the disorganised condition of the nursing profession." What is really astounding is that he imagines he can evolve a scheme for its organisation amid his exacting duties as Chairman of the above Committee, in the midst of the turmoil of a European war. May I be permitted to suggest to him, through the medium of your valuable paper, that he has a well-considered instrument ready to hand in the Nurses' Registration Bill, in charge of Dr. Chapple, and that he would be well advised to urge the passing of that carefully-considered and well-balanced measure upon the House of Commons.

I am, yours faithfully,
REGISTRATIONIST.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

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

February 5th.—What is the difference in the nature and action of a vaccine, and an anti-toxin serum? What is a common dose of diphtheria anti-toxin? How would you prepare the skin for the injection?

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