

"Lizzie, my poor little Lizzie; indeed I do understand."

The loves of master and man and mistress and maid are well worth reading, and we will leave our readers to discover the final issue.

H. H.

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 STRATEGICAL ORGANISATION OF THE ARMY NURSING SERVICE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—As a Matron of some slight standing, and an assiduous reader of your Journal, and one keenly interested in, not only her immediate work, but in everything that pertains to the Nursing Profession, I feel that I may on occasion lay claim to your editorial ear. I have some little knowledge, and am anxious to acquire a vast deal more, of Army Nursing; also I have a healthy regard for "red tape," and fear that were I to direct my enquiries through War Office channels, the reply would reach me many years after peace has been declared—hence this appeal to your columns.

It appears that almost all hospitals are now under military régime, and the carrying on of the work, I understand, differs considerably from the purely civil methods. This, in itself, is of enormous interest, but what I especially want information about concerns the *strategical organization* of the Army Nursing Service, its strength, how it is generalised, and reinforced, how many nurses, not yet called up, are still available in England, the percentage of casualties in the nursing ranks, how they are cared for, &c., &c.

Miss Becher, Matron-in-Chief at the War Office, is I assume the G.O.C. of the entire Service. I am confused with regard to the relationship of the other Matrons-in-Chief:—British Expeditionary Force, Territorial, British Red Cross, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, and South African. Do these ladies hold a Council of War, as it were, to discuss pros and cons, ways and means, &c., and if so why should not occasional reports of these be published for the benefit of those of us who are not of the "inner circle?" Apart from the intense interest of the same, the benefit of the experience of these Matrons-in-Chief would be educational, and of inestimable value to the Profession as a whole, especially to one so keen and ignorant as myself.

Trusting that I am not asking any questions, the answers to which might prove of military value to "the enemy."

I am, yours truly,
"WILLING TO LEARN."

[Our correspondent's thirst for knowledge on Army nursing organization can only be satisfied through the official source, but as a system of what may be termed unofficial martial law pertains throughout the Military Nursing Services, perhaps advisedly, we fear she must await the after peace millennium before such information as she seeks is available.—ED.]

WE PREFER "I SERVE."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—With reference to "Sister in War Hospital's" letter in your issue of July 22nd, kindly suffer me to ask why nurses in this country are so often pre-occupied in asserting their personal dignity and social position, which I feel sure not even a medical woman would really challenge.

Cannot their beautiful work and the responsibilities of their splendid profession fill them with sufficient self-esteem and self-reliance of the right sort to make them—at least occasionally—forget what seems to be a veritable nightmare of the English nurse—her social position?

"Ich Dien" is, after all, royal enough!

In my country—Sweden—a hospital nurse is, as a matter of course, looked upon as an educated woman (I avoid, purposely, the miserable word "lady"), and no one would ever dream of taking her for a domestic servant—glorified or not. And she is herself perfectly at rest on this point.

Why is it not so in England? Surely there must be a reason.

I am, Madam,

Yours truly,

F. NORBERG,

Millbank Hospital,

July 23rd, 1916.

[It is, of course, very salutary for us to see ourselves at this particular moment as "neutrals" see us—especially from the vantage ground of one of our principal military hospitals! For our part, we prefer "I Serve" to "Ich Dien," and hope that when our Prince of Wales returns to civil life he will drop his Bohemian motto and adopt one in the vulgar tongue of his own country. We think our correspondent mistakes the aspirations of British nurses. We care nothing for social position, that is a matter of sale and barter. We are demanding defined educational standards and legal status, and, from what we know of the nursing profession in Sweden, we think it would be well advised to realise that without them "self-esteem" and "self-reliance" are dangerous qualities, in so far as the sick are concerned.—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

August 5th.—How would you prevent the spread of epidemics by flies, fleas, lice and bugs in war time?

August 12th.—How would you organise the nursing in a military hospital of 100 beds and upwards?

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