

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 REAL AND URGENT NECESSITY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—A real and urgent necessity has arisen for more nurses, V.A.D. nursing members (women) and V.A.D. general service members, in military and auxiliary hospitals at home. The demands made upon us by the military authorities are very heavy, and cannot be met out of the existing supply. There must still be many women who are not giving the whole of their time and service to the war, and who have no ties which prevent them from doing so. We earnestly call upon these women to come forward and help us in this emergency, and thus enable us to answer the call of the sick and wounded men.

Suitable women who are able to help in the hospitals may be attached to existing Voluntary Aid Detachments for immediate service in the hospitals.

Full information on this point may be obtained from the Women's Joint V.A.D. Committee, Devonshire House, or from the County Directors, Col. Valentine Matthews, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, or from Col. T. E. L. Bate, Craig's Court House, Whitehall.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) ARTHUR STANLEY,
Chairman, Executive Committee
British Red Cross Society.

RANFURLY,
Director of the Ambulance Department of the Order of St. John.

PROFESSIONAL CONTROL IMPERATIVE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I wish to support the sentiments expressed in the able letter signed "A Poor Law Infirmiry Matron" in your last issue. It is very hard indeed for us Matrons to be held up in the public press as "enemies within the gates" because we claim the right to form a professional opinion. No doubt the National Poor Law Officers' Association is doing admirable work on general lines, but the members cannot and do not know the needs of a highly skilled profession such as nursing, and concerning our own professional education, surely we Matrons and nurses have a right to judge of what is required. I am old in Poor Law service, and rejoice to see the many reforms in its nursing department I do see, but they have been hardly won by patient and intelligent women, who have devoted years of uphill work to Poor Law institutions. That such expert Associations as the Matrons' Council, our National Council of Nurses, of which I am a member, and other nursing organisations were

not consulted about the foundation of the College of Nursing, whilst our Guardians, clerks and porters were represented on its Council through the Poor Law Officers' Association, has considerably disturbed my trust in its constitution. Now, however, that its promoters have realised its defects, and are prepared to help on with a Nurses' Registration Bill, it would be a thousand pities if professional as apart from civil opinion were not permitted to prevail on our General Nursing Council. It is the only way to get efficiency and peace.

Yours truly,
ANOTHER INFIRMARY MATRON.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—It may interest your readers to learn that the nursing staff of this unit have subscribed amongst them £50 14s. to endow a bed for one year at Roehampton. The various services comprising the unit are as follows: T.F.N.S., A.P.M.C., St. J.A.B., B.R.C., and all of them are represented.

We venture to hope that other units may help in the support of this splendid place and to suggest that a visit to it cannot fail to rouse great interest.

Believe me, yours faithfully,
A TERRITORIAL SISTER.

1/5th Northern General Hospital,
R.A.M.C. (T.), Leicester.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Poor Law Matron.—There are several flourishing Leagues of Poor Law Nurses attached to the larger infirmaries, such as Chelsea, City of Westminster, Kensington, Southwark, Kingston, Bethnal Green, Beckett Street (Leeds), and others. We feel sure if you apply to the Matrons, they will supply information concerning their organizations. These Leagues are a great source of profit and pleasure to the nurses; they inspire *esprit de corps* and should—through affiliation with the National Council of Trained Nurses—bring the members into touch with their colleagues outside the gates, and thus widen views and sympathies. A tendency to narrowness needs guarding against in so absorbing an environment as hospital life.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

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

August 19th.—Enumerate the signs and symptoms of acute tonsillitis. What disease may it resemble? How would you nurse such a case?

The Nurses' Registration Bill drafted by the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., may now be purchased either directly, or through any Bookseller, from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, Ltd., East Harding Street, London, E.C. Price 2d. (postage extra.) It should be studied by nurses, whom it vitally concerns.

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