

AFTER MANY DAYS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was one of the few "mere nurses" present at the Meeting of the Consultative Board of the College of Nursing at St. Thomas' Hospital, on June 15th. I have been a registration worker for upwards of 20 years, and I own I had to rub my eyes to realise that it was not a dream, that our cause was at last being advocated in the Great Hall of my Alma Mater. Praise be, as we say in Ireland. But from first to last only one lady spoke; she asked a question; men entirely took the helm—and mostly laymen. I was glad, however, to hear Mr. Stanley say that the registered nurses were going to have a look in about their own affairs by and by. Let us hope everything will not be cut and dried before that auspicious moment. Personally I see no use in a Consultative Board, and always wonder why it is necessary to consult people whose advice one is not compelled to follow. With gratitude for your untiring labour on our behalf these many years,

I remain,
A "NIGHTINGALE."

MORE INFORMATION REQUIRED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—As one who has taken a great interest in the Nursing Profession for a number of years, I must acknowledge that I am not convinced that the College of Nursing is a step in the right direction. I should like to know a few facts. Let us assume that the scheme was Mr. Stanley's. Who were his advisers? If they were trained nurses, surely common decency would have suggested that the scheme should be delayed until their colleagues who are serving their King and country had returned home, and used their valuable experience in an advisory manner. Do loyalty and self-denial disfranchise in the nursing profession? There has been too much of the hole and corner about the planning of the scheme to satisfy my humble requirements. The matter has not been adequately discussed. A favoured few possess the rights, the rank and file the duties. I have read the account of the meeting at St. Thomas' Hospital on 15th ult., and my considered opinion is that chaos reigns supreme. Difficulties are already cropping up concerning the registers of mental, fever and nurses for sick children. The village nurse question arose and Mr. Stanley acknowledged that this question would tax all the mental efforts of the Consultative Board and the Council. What does all this mean? Clearly that an oligarchy has assumed knowledge and powers which it does not possess. There has been no free discussion, and no healthy exchange of opinions. You might think the examination question was settled? Mr. Stanley has not the faintest notion how this question will be settled! I should like to know what the status of the V.A.D.s will be, very excellent ladies doing

very excellent work when under the supervision of trained nurses, but untrained.

My advice to Matrons and Sisters is this: *At once* explain to all the nurses under your charge the meaning and *power* of the postal vote, and so let them take full advantage of it.

Yours,
S. J. Ross.

Bedford.

A FEW HOME TRUTHS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Though I am not a nurse I have for many years been interested in the question of registration for nurses, so I may, perhaps, be allowed to consider myself one of the "registrationists" alluded to by you in your note on V.A.D.s letter. I venture therefore to thank you heartily for the amusement you have given us by publishing such a deliciously absurd communication. But having enjoyed our laugh to the full I should like now to strike a more serious note. The letter contains a warning which all nurses, regulars and V.A.D.s would do well to ponder. It is a startling instance of the depths to which people can sink who put conceit and egotism before duty and discipline. There are, we know, many trained nurses doing good and useful work all over the country, I might say all over the world, whose grammar is not above reproach, but there is a vulgarity of mind and heart that degrades those who suffer from it far more than any ignorance of grammar or etiquette could do

I remain,
Yours truly,
A HOSPITAL DISPENSER. !

Ventnor.

[We regret we are unable to publish further correspondence on this subject.—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

July 8th.—Describe briefly the object and effects of vaccination. Describe the method of introducing the lymph and the stages of development in a successful vaccination.

July 15th.—What diseases may flies convey? What would you suggest to prevent the presence of flies in hospital wards containing cases of infectious disease?

July 22nd.—If it is decided under medical advice that an infant shall be weaned, what special points would you observe in the care of the mother and child?

July 29th.—What methods have you seen employed for the treatment of infected wounds, and with what results?

NOTICE.

The Secretary of the War Office states that nurses holding certificates for three years' general training who are desirous of being employed in military hospitals should apply in writing without delay to the Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S., War Office, for conditions of service.

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