

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.

NURSING LEGISLATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was just delighted to see in the last issue of the JOURNAL the fourth draft of the Bill for State Registration, promoted by the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd. Now that we have it in print, we can study its provisions. I note with satisfaction that it incorporates some of the principal clauses contained in the Bill which Registrationists have valued and striven for for so many years. Anything less would be a grave injustice to the Nursing Profession. What we Nurses want to know, however, is what professional bodies are going to nominate those forty-five persons who are to constitute the Council, and whose names it is proposed to include in the Bill? That is most important and, indeed, essential. I heartily endorse the opinion expressed in the JOURNAL that we nurses have a right to know what authorities it is proposed shall nominate the persons who are to govern us. Let us have the names, by all means, if Parliament is willing; but the bodies nominating them also. If one or other must be left out, then leave out the names.—Yours, &c.,

BEATRICE KENT.

THE PRELUDE TO PEACE AND SAFETY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—Once more we have to thank the "Keeper of the Door" for so watchfully guarding our Portals.

Our profession seems to me, like little Belgium, compelled to fight on until our position is assured.

Unless Registration becomes law we shall be liable to repeated invasions of our rights and privileges.

How carefully, for instance, those who take up sanitary work are trained, and the public would be deeply shocked were an amateur allowed to inspect or direct the making of their drains, and yet they would debar the finest profession in the world for women the status which it is justly entitled to.

Nothing but State Registration will bring peace and safety, and I earnestly hope you may be permitted to see your many years of strenuous endeavour crowned with success.

Believe me, yours faithfully,
J. MELITA JONES, R.N.
In New Zealand.

Auckland, New Zealand.

P.S.—I yet hope to be able to write—"Registered in Great Britain."

THE VOICE AND ITS INFLUENCE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was very interested to read in last week's JOURNAL the article on "The Voice and its influence." The great Master, Shakespeare, gave an terse description of the necessary qualities in a woman's voice when he wrote:—

"Her voice was ever sweet, gentle and low,
An excellent thing in woman."

If this is the case with the sex generally how much more in nurses, for the nerves of the sick we know are acutely sensitive, and a voice with an edge on it may make purgatory of the sick room, whereas a voice soft, sympathetic and tender may soothe and comfort and so be a real factor in the restoration to health of the patient.

I wish someone would write an article (illustrated) on "Hands and their influence." I, for one, am a firm believer in it—for better for worse. So much is conveyed by hands. From the touch of some people we shrink. The hands may be shapely—even beautiful, but they are hard and unsympathetic, and repel one by their contact. Others seem to convey healing in their touch, we submit ourselves to their ministrations gratefully, we are sorry when they cease. All of which emphasises the importance of the small things in nursing. I would like to ask probationers if they are sure that their touch is as tender and their voices as sweet as nature and art can make them; if they do not feel assured on this point let me advise them to go and listen to some of our most persuasive speakers—Lady Henry Somerset, Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Ormiston Chant, Dr. Flora Murray, and then resolve to become their disciples, I know it would mean comfort for the sick.

Yours faithfully,

SISTER.

DIETARY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I entirely agree with the opinion expressed by your correspondent that British and French have much to learn from one another. I very much hope that one of the results of this war will be that English nurses will leave a permanent mark in the wards of French hospitals, and I should be happy if I thought that Frenchwomen would leave their impress in the kitchens of English hospitals. After all the presentation of nutritious food to a patient in an appetising form goes a long way towards his recovery, and in this department French women can give us points all along the line.

Yours, &c.

ONE WHO HAS EXPERIENCED BOTH.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

September 2nd.—In what diseases have you seen marked delirium? How would you endeavour to quiet and obtain sleep for such cases?

September 9th.—What do you know of Acute Poliomyelitis, and the nursing care necessary in cases of this disease?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)