

## 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 LACK OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I read carefully your article on "State Legislation and the College of Nursing," and am grateful for it, as I agree with you that it is "our duty to consider carefully any system of legislation and Government by which it is proposed that we shall be controlled"; but this is just what many persons, no doubt desirous of being kind to us, consider quite superfluous. We are often treated like sheep, because we behave like them, so that the blame is not altogether that of "patriarchal persons."

In this city the Committee of the hospital are discussing the question of paying the guinea fee for its nurses joining the College, an arrangement meant in all kindness, but is it right to "round up" dependent women workers and thus practically compel them to become members of an organisation they know nothing about, and thus to give their names in support of professional legislation which they have not considered, and which is yet in the air? I spoke to a member of the committee on this point, and he replied "Matron advises it," and added, "What can these girls know about nursing education and Acts of Parliament? We must decide all that for them."

I also spoke to some of the nurses, and one said, "We haven't got time to be bothered with it. I've no guineas to spare. If they want us to join the College they must pay our fee. We may get something out of it or we may not, but as long as we haven't to pay it does not matter." I was shocked. I feel sure this lack of professional responsibility is the result of the shepherd and sheep-dog system.

Yours truly,

SOCIAL WORKER AND HEALTH VISITOR.

## WE ARE FREE BRITISH SUBJECTS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I suppose every British nurse with a vestige of spirit, had her blood up to boiling-point, when on Saturday last she read the announcement in the Press, that the War Office had appointed a Committee principally of male employers as a "Supply of Nurses Committee" on which there was not one professional matron or nurse, to make such recommendations as they think fit to augment the supply of nurses for military hospitals, and incidentally to coerce a profession of working women without consulting

them. Are we going to permit Mr. Lloyd George to offer this gross affront to our highly skilled and invaluable profession without protest? I sincerely hope not. That the only woman placed on this Supply Committee of our labour is the Commandant-in-Chief of the Voluntary Aid Detachments—which ill-considered organisation has undermined our professional standards at home and abroad—is nothing short of an outrage. Hoping you will take action.

I remain, yours truly,

A MEMBER BART'S LEAGUE.

[A strong emergency resolution on this question will be considered at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses on Thursday in this week. We share the indignation of our correspondent.—ED.]

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

September 30th.—What conditions are likely to lead to rupture of the perineum?

October 7th.—State method and precautions in giving (a) continuous saline enema; (b) nutritive enema; (c) high enema.

October 14th.—(a) What is meant by counter-irritation? (b) Name the different ways of making counter-irritation.

October 21st.—What is *Materia Medica*? Outline a practical course for nurses.

October 28th.—State what you know of the care of patients suffering from a Cerebral Tumour.

## COMING EVENTS.

September 28th.—Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses: Meeting Executive Committee, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., 11.30 a.m.; Meeting Central Committee, Council Chamber, British Medical Association, 429, Strand, London, W.C. 2.30 p.m.

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