

## 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 SUBMERGED SEVEN.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Those matrons with whom I have spoken who are running the College of Nursing Company at top speed, make no secret that they are in favour of its policy of excluding representatives of the organized nurses' societies from its Council. One went so far as to remark, "We don't want nurses expressing opinions and making rows; they must trust the Council." And this determined policy is amply verified by the personnel of the Scottish Board, just announced—not one nurse elected, on to it by the Council of the College, but permission granted to twenty-three self-nominated persons to co-opt seven nurses! Is this what the College means by self-government of the nursing profession? I should be sorry to be one of the submerged seven. But what is going to be done? Surely the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses is not going to permit the whole profession to be submerged, which can be the only result to the College policy of lay and official control. This is a very terrible situation for the rank and file to face; it is not a matter of the control of hospital committees of their own—shall we say servants?—but of absolute control of thousands of professional women who are not in their employment. In my opinion no more barefaced scheme for the monopoly of the economic existence of working women has ever been put forward than that being quietly riveted by the present Nursing College Council; and it is high time we women who have some spirit rose and exposed the whole danger by every means in our power. We have a just Bill of our own—drafted by experienced and liberal-minded medical men and nurses; let us push forward this measure in opposition to the Employers' Bill, and refuse to be treated, not only like a flock of sheep, but as fools. The constitution of the Scottish Board is proof positive that unless we fight, we shall be crushed right out.

Yours truly,

HENRIETTA HAWKINS, P.L.G.

## ARE TRAINED NURSES NEEDED OR NOT?

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—This "Old World" is still very much tied and bound by red tape. But is it red tape, or an unwillingness to acquire new ideas? Here I am, a Britisher, having travelled thousands of miles at my own expense, bringing with me—if I may say so—very high credentials, and yet have no opportunity of showing them. I know that the heads of the different Departments are busy, very busy indeed, but could it not be arranged to have

assistant heads in other places than London who know the standing and advancement of the nursing profession—assistants who are qualified to pass judgment on the merits of the applicants, and who would refer the application for final decision only to the head, which, under these circumstances, could be reached much more quickly.

Negotiation by letter is such a slow process, the saving of time by granting better facilities for interviews, seems to me to be a real economic necessity, both in respect of the War Office and also with regard to the private purses of the applicants, who cannot well afford to be detained indefinitely in London. Several of my fellow-passengers told me I should be much discouraged in the sacrifice I was making. Sacrifice was a word I had not thought about, my only idea was to do "my bit." But now—well, I wonder! I am glad my spirit is not easily crushed. It seems to me the different factions would do well to meet once a week for an hour or two and forgetting the personal side of things in this great crisis, learn what is being done in other lands; the wonderful advancement in the nursing profession, not alone throughout the Empire, but also in that nation across the seas where there is not so much precedent tied up by red tape. There is so much of it here, that I can almost understand the reluctance to unwind by those who have never tried any other method.

Yours very truly,

DISAPPOINTED, BUT NOT DESPAIRING.

[We know our War Office and have ceased to expect consideration from its officials, much less courtesy; but we strongly deprecate the devotion to Empire of our Sisters from overseas being damped down. All such applicants for military nursing, should be received and interviewed when they call at the Nursing Department at the War Office. If trained nurses are not required in military hospitals, why agitate about the "supply"?—ED.]

## NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Miss F. A. Sheldon.*—Your letter will appear next week; we wish to insert both sides of the case, but would ask you to read the synopsis of Memo. and Articles of the College in this week's issue.

## MORE LOVELY LETTERS.

The Editor has received another budget of lovely letters, for which she is most grateful. The little man in question was christened on Saturday 7th inst.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

*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.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)