

FALSE ECONOMY AND SOCIAL AUTOCRACY.*To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.*

DEAR MADAM,—There is an old proverb that "You can take a horse to the pond but you cannot make him drink." Thus, with the "Supply of Nurses Committee." There need never have been any shortage of trained nurses if the War Office had taken time by the forelock and organized the supply—on terms trained nurses were prepared to accept. False economy and social autocracy have been at the bottom of the failure of supply—together with lack of consideration for our professional status. I hear that there are hundreds of well-trained nurses waiting in Canada, South Africa and New Zealand, who would gladly respond to the Empire's needs, if their expenses were paid; and instead of availing themselves of such efficient help, every sort of amateur and "dug-out" has been given preference in nursing our sick and wounded. As you say, every standard of nursing has been depreciated, and a shortage of the thoroughly trained is the result. The majority of the matrons on the "Supply Committee" are on the War Office Nursing Boards. Let us hope they may now have somewhat of a free hand outside its entanglements of red tape. New blood is what was required, but that, of course, will be rigorously excluded—especially if it is well supplied with red corpuscles.

Yours sincerely,
SISTER (T.F.).

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY OF TRAINED MASSEUSES.*To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.*

DEAR MADAM,—The Council of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses direct me to inform you that the new Institute of Massage and Remedial Gymnastics (Manchester), which has recently circularised you, is in no way connected with the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses.

You are aware that the Incorporated Society has endeavoured to fulfil all the requirements of the profession, and from its foundation in 1894 has had the support of medical men and women and their active assistance in examination. The present Advisory Board of the Society is representative of professional interests, as the enclosed list will show. The examination in medical electricity inaugurated by the Society since the outbreak of war is entirely conducted by members of the medical profession, who also take part in all other examinations, namely, those for massage, Swedish remedial exercises and teachers' certificates. The written part of all examinations is held at local centres, and for years past a practical examination has been held in Dublin, and, more recently, in response to a demand, in Liverpool and Manchester.

Certificate holders now number 3,990 (men and women).

The Society provides a distinctive badge for its members and associates.

The Council regret the formation of a new

examining body in massage, as by a "One Portal" system alone can a standard for training and examination be maintained. With this object in view the Society invited co-operation when the Manchester Institute was first proposed, and it is to be regretted that the endeavour of three medical members of the Society's Advisory Board to arrange a Conference in Manchester was ignored by a Committee of the Manchester Institute.

The Council will deeply appreciate the continuance of your co-operation and support in the Incorporated Society's endeavour to advance the interests of the profession generally.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) E. M. TEMPLETON,
Secretary.

157, Great Portland Street,
London, W.

[It is very difficult to maintain the One Portal system of examination for any profession, unless by Act of Parliament. We hope to hear before long that the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses has drafted a Registration Bill providing for self-government for the profession of massage by an independent Central Council.—ED.]

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE LECTURES.

The Institute of Hygiene is lending its help in the crusade against venereal disease, and the first of an instructive series of lectures by recognised medical authorities commenced at the Institute on Tuesday. These lectures are specially intended for District Nurses, Health Visitors and Midwives.

November 7th.—"Venereal Virus and its Detection," by John W. H. Eyre, M.D., F.R.S.Ed.

November 14th.—"Venereal Disease—Its Racial Effects," by Lady Barrett, M.D., M.S.

November 21st.—"The Problem of Gonorrhoea," by G. B. Townley Clarkson, M.A., M.R.C.S.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

November 11th.—What are the causes of Nasal Hemorrhage? and how is it treated?

November 18th.—What is Asthma? State symptoms and how alleviated.

November 25th.—What do you know about Venereal Disease? How would you help to stamp it out?

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