

## 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.*

## COERCION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The Committee of this hospital is paying the guineas for the trained nurses to join the College. I object to its constitution, and do not wish to sign the agreement which, I gather from your paper, deprives me of all power of self-defence. But I ask you, what will be the position of those nurses who refuse to join? All our future depends upon the good word of our Matron, and, although she was very bitter against State Registration in the past, she is using what I consider undue influence to make the whole staff sign the form. This is going on all over the country—the nurses are told nothing of the non-representative nature of the College Council, or its absolute power over the members. We are treated exactly like a flock of sheep, and there seems no protection for us when Committee, Matron, Medical Staff, and Secretary are all helping to herd us into the pound. I seriously think of resigning, and trying to get work where one can have freedom of conscience.

Yours truly,

A STAFF NURSE.

[Never adopt any course contrary to your convictions. No well-trained nurse need be out of work at the present time.—Ed.]

## AS IT SHOULD BE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—As I hear complaints from friends in various hospitals that they are being made to join the College, I think it is only just to our management to state that at "Bart's" we are being left free to do as we choose. Many of us prefer to wait and see what sort of Registration Bill is passed before we subscribe to it.

Yours truly,

A MEMBER OF BART'S LEAGUE.

["Wait and See" policy is lacking in grit. Study the two Nurses' Registration Bills now and help to get a just one through Parliament. When a Bill has been passed, it will be too late.—Ed.]

## IGNORANT INTERFERENCE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Our untrained Commandant began at once about the College of Nursing as soon as I came to this Red Cross hospital, and wanted to know if I was a member. I told her it was not her business. She then said she would pay the guinea if I would join. I then asked her a few questions about its rules and regulations, and she was bound to own she had never seen them. I took

upon myself to expostulate with the lady for her ignorant interference—but a straw shows which way the wind blows!

Yours sincerely,

THREE YEARS' CERT.

[We have received many letters on the College question much in the same strain as those published. We fear the liberty of hospital nurses is being greatly interfered with in this connection.—Ed.]

## ECONOMIC DETAILS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In reference to the letter in a recent issue, under the heading of "Economic Details," I should like to show the other side, of which your correspondent fails to make mention.

It seems absurd to talk of nurses receiving "much higher emoluments." How can this be so when a nurse has still clothing to buy, such as shoes and stockings, not to mention the greater part of her uniform? All these things are greatly increased in price, and the £1 5s. or £1 a month that she may be earning does not (as we all know) go as far as half that sum would have done in pre-war days. If anyone suffers, surely it is the nurses whose food is far below the usual standard both in quantity and quality.

Even in peace time a nurse's food is never anything but the plainest. When war broke out and prices went up, the food in hospital became poorer and scantier, evidently with a view to managing the dietary on the same sum as before.

I do not think we are under any misapprehension as regards "economic details."

Yours truly,

A HOSPITAL NURSE.

## REPLIES.

Miss C. P., Manchester.—We are obliged for your suggestion. Speakers on "State Registration from the Nurses' Point of View" have been offered, and in a number of instances refused by Matrons. Thus the nursing staff are prevented from hearing both sides of the Nursing College controversy.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

December 23rd.—What is leprosy? What progress has been made in its treatment?

December 30th.—What diseases may be conveyed by carriers, and how do they carry typhoid?

## THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

Copies of the "Statement," issued under the authority of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, in its negotiations with the College of Nursing, Limited, can be procured from 431, Oxford Street, London, W., price one penny.

Copies of the amended Bill approved by the Central Committee from the same address, price 2d.

*previous page*

*next page*