

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.

NO MORE PEA-NUTS AND COMPRESSED PACKETS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am now in the third year of my war work. War, in the abstract, may be a curse, but it has its compensations. What of the growth of the class of worker to which I belong? I came on active service fresh from the narrow environment of a large London hospital, with a mind our late revered Matron (Isa Stewart) would have likened to a pea-nut! That is, wizened, dry, perniciously insular. Many of my colleagues were in the same sad case. We had never before been out of England. We were dumb in a foreign land. Everything must be just so. But after two years' experience in close touch with this great tragedy—after travel, and coming into touch with human beings of widely different views of life to ourselves, we have grown with the rapidity of Alice in Wonderland, never again to become "compressed packets." When the war is over, and we return home (glorious day!) we shall be bigger, humanly speaking, and of greater value to our dear country, in whatever sphere our lot is cast. Then we must set to work in support of those great international ideals for which THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING has ever stood. No longer will it then be "a voice crying in the wilderness," as our American cousins so aptly name it, in criticising our insularity.

Yours truly,
AN ARMY SISTER.

WRONG IMPRESSIONS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In the *Leicester Royal Infirmary Nurses' League Journal* a meeting is reported, which took place at the Royal Infirmary on November 4th, when Miss Cox-Davies was present to speak in support of the Nursing College Scheme and Bill. Miss Cox-Davies is reported as stating that she had been for many years on the Central Committee for State Registration, and had taken a prominent part in the National Union. I presume both of these statements are reporter's errors, as the lady in question has never been associated with either of these organisations, and it is very misleading to the members of the League that such mistakes should be made. I am bound to say that the replies given to questions at this meeting were most unsatisfactory, as far as I could gather nothing of any value is secured in the College Bill for trained nurses. It is reported that Miss Cox-Davies stated "that each

League having enough registered nurses can send up a representative," presumably to take a seat on the General Nursing Council set up by the College Bill, "and that the Central Committee can select seven to represent its business on the Council." This is nonsense, and may be mis-reporting, as Miss Cox-Davies is well aware that no Leagues can be directly represented; and it is because the nurses' organisations have been excluded from direct representation on the College Bill Council (as they are from its present Council) that the Central Committee has refused to further negotiate with the College. The fact is that direct representation of the nurses' organisations, a definite term of three years' training, and a central examination before registration, are not provided for in the College Bill, as they are in the Central Committee's Bill, and it is a pity trained nurses are being misled on these and other points. I write to THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, as our League Journal only comes out so seldom.

Yours truly,
LOYAL TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

[We regret this letter has been held over for want of space.—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

January 6th.—What is a parasite? What external parasites attack man? Describe in detail the treatment and management of a case of scabies with special reference to the prevention of the spread of the disease.

January 13th.—What are the different forms of meningitis in children? What do you know of them and of the nursing care needed?

January 20th.—A patient becomes unconscious from cerebral hæmorrhage; what would you do in such a case? In the event of the patient becoming helpless from hemiplegia afterwards, indicate how you would nurse the case?

NOTICE.

News items kindly sent by readers should reach the Editor at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W., not later than Tuesday in each week, and earlier if possible. Owing to the very serious shortage of labour and the stress of work in the printing world, the prompt dispatch of news is now essential.

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.

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