

The dead go down into silence. We do not deny their nearness or the possibility of their communicating with us by permission, but the dallying with spiritual forces may be fraught with dire consequences, the issues of which we cannot estimate.

H. H.

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.

STATE REGISTRATION MONEY BOX.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was so interested in Miss Beatrice Kent's "Happy Thought" of saving odd halfpence for the S.S.R., I am following her example, and beg to enclose 2s. 2d. in advance for 1917. Even if the drains upon our small funds are manifold just now, still most of us can manage to save a small sum for so great a cause.

Yours also hopefully,

ELIZABETH PURVIS.

District Nurses' Home,
Middlesbrough.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Miss Kent's idea of a registration money box is just splendid. How few of us would think that such a large sum could be raised by just a few modest halfpennies. A few shillings are often rather difficult to spare, but of course with this method two shillings is never missed. As January is still in * we can start as from the New Year. My contribution made acquaintance with the money box this morning. Wishing you all success in your fight for State Registration,

I remain, yours truly,

St. Mark's, Chelsea.

T. F. N. S.

DISCOURTESY RESENTED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—With reference to paragraph appearing in the column "Nursing and the War" in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, dated January 13th, 1917, may I ask if the Sisters who "consider themselves justly aggrieved and complain of the discourtesy with which they have been treated by the Matron-in-Chief" have ever thought what the "senior official" of our Service is tackling and has been tackling since August, 1914?

I consider it very unsporting, and if we go on those lines we are by no means helping to win the war, but on the contrary. Victory, we are told, is only going to be gained by all pulling together, and, although our part is very minute, it does make a small difference.

We signed to serve wherever required, at home or abroad, and it's up to us to get on uncomplainingly, although we may not be as comfortable as some others of the same Service.

* This letter has been unavoidably held over.

The men are doing their part nobly and willingly. Are we so much behind them?

The Matron-in-Chief generously considers our needs, but it stands to reason has no time, when there is so much important work on hand, to listen to petty grievances.

STAFF NURSE,

Q.A.I.M.N.S. (R.).

Military Hospital, Fargo,
Salisbury Plain.

[The sentiments of our correspondent are excellent, and we hope she lives up to them, but as she knows nothing of the circumstances to which we referred, several of her statements have nothing to do with the question at issue. It is not a "petty grievance" to be summarily discharged from the Reserve without any reason being given, and no opportunity of defence. We claim that trained nurses and the public have a right to courtesy from public officials, even in war time, and the former have also a right to just and considerate treatment from the Matron-in-Chief. This we can prove they do not invariably receive, and as no redress is apparently to be procured through the rightful authority we can but repeat the advice we offered in the paragraph to which our correspondent refers. Because women workers are usually poor and defenceless their professional reputations are their chief asset, and senior officials must be made to realise that the junior nurses under their direction are equally servants of the State with themselves and have equal right to consideration. Twice quite recently gentlewomen other than nurses have complained to us most indignantly of the intense rudeness with which they have been treated at the War Office, and it is high time this cause of complaint ceased.—ED.]

"LEFT BEHIND."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I attended a meeting in Dublin last week to hear about the College of Nursing, and I should like to place my protest on record against two things said by Miss Cox-Davies: (1) "That the College of Nursing was established whether the Nurses wanted it or not," and (2) That the promoters of the College scheme, the ill-considered Constitution of which has had to be abandoned before it has been in existence a year, "hoped the time would come when it would be able to work with her (Mrs. Bedford Fenwick) instead of leaving her behind." This from the representative of people who have taken a quarter of a century to accept only in part the great scheme for the organisation of the Nursing Profession by the State laid down by you close on thirty years ago, and for which our Irish Nurses Association has been working since its inception in 1904! The College of Nursing may be established, but it will not be thrust upon Irish Nurses without their consent, as it has been apparently on Nurses in England and Scotland, as we mean to keep our Irish Members of Parliament well informed of its provisions, and to see that no

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