

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.

A TRAP TO CATCH A SUNBEAM.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Some of us have smiled a good deal over the visit of some rather irresponsible ladies to us Irish Nurses, to persuade us to invest our sparse guineas in some sort of a College of Nursing which changes its name as it goes along.

I look upon the whole thing as a Trap to catch a Sunbeam. The trap is cleverly set and attractively baited. The Sunbeam dances in, lets light upon the subject, and dances out again—*free*.

If Amateurs and Anti-registrationist perverts, want to elect and co-opt people "interested in Nursing," and control V.A.D.s, "cottage" nursing, and so on, by all means let them have scope. But when it comes to dealing with the real Nursing Profession—well, the Sunbeam dances out.

Is it not a pregnant fact that the only Charter possessed by the Profession up to now, has had to be sacrificed by the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association on joining the "College"?

Yours, &c.,

ALBINIA BRODRICK.

Ballincoona, Caher Daniel, Co. Kerry.

"SWEET MESSENGERS OF LOVE."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I laid down my JOURNAL OF NURSING, after reading the letter from a V.A.D. signed "A Ward Gardener," to open a letter that had just arrived from my brother—a sergeant, "somewhere in France." This is his third winter in the trenches. This was what he wrote: "At present we are in a dug-out, two feet deep in water—melted snow; water is constantly dropping from the roof; we are not allowed to put out our heads during the day, but have just had some nice hot tea, made from snow melted in a petrol-can, and our boys are singing, 'Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag and smile, smile, smile.'" My thoughts turned to our hospital motto, "I Serve." There was a deep longing to make up to those boys in some small measure when they come home, for the hardships they are bearing for us and the dear old country. Perhaps in the ward of a hospital we may offer willing service, arranging beautiful flowers, "Sweet Messengers of Love," sent to express in part the debt we can never repay. Our boys must have bodily care and attention; surely the Matron can be trusted to see they get it. Each one who helps them to forget the discomfort they have left behind and may have to return to is doing her bit.

Long ago the question was asked: "To what purpose is this waste?"

May those whose actions are loving continue in their good work and send their wealth of flowers to be thankfully received. They will surely hear one day, "Inasmuch as ye did it to one of the least of these, ye did it unto me."

Yours truly,

A. R. HARE.

North Bierley Union,
Bradford.

THE ORGANISATION OF POOR LAW NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—A controversy aroused by the College of Nursing is raging in the Poor Law world, on the question of the organisation of Poor Law Nurses in relation to registration. *The Poor Law Officers' Journal* is full of it. What do you advise us to do? You know there is a Poor Law Matrons' Association which has done much good work in the past, but entirely without consulting the rank and file. The Superintendent Nurses also co-operate together. Now Guardians all over the country who have been invited by the College to form its Consultative Board, begin to find that after all it means nothing, as under the suggested amalgamation of the College and the R.B.N.A., the powers of a Consultative Board are curtailed—a very good thing in my opinion, as it was a real white elephant. But now the Guardians here begin to think we nurses need "protection," that our interests may be ignored, and that we ought to join in with the Poor Law Officers' Association—as we have no voice through the P.L. Matrons' Association. The Poor Law people are very strong as they have members in Parliament who work for them—and they have interest at the Local Government Board. As you know I am a member of the Society for State Registration and am quite satisfied that the Central Committee will see after the interests of Poor Law Nurses as well as hospital nurses through our own Bill. What a pity is all this College interference. Why did it not support our Bill and help to get it through Parliament?

Yours truly,

SISTER, POOR LAW.

[We advise you to consult your Matron, but as you know our Bill provides for a three years' open term of grace after it becomes law—during which all Poor Law Nurses of good character will be able to register. We agree too many cooks spoil the broth.—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

March 3rd.—What is an intussusception? How would you prepare the patient for operation, and what instruments and dressings would be necessary?

March 10th.—Describe the causes, symptoms and terminations of inflammations?

March 17th.—What precautions would you take in saving for microscopic examination a specimen of urine, a specimen of sputum, a specimen of faeces?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)