

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.

LET HER REST IN PEACE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I notice that at the Annual Meeting of the Central Council on District Nursing Mr. David Pennant moved an ambiguous resolution expressing the pious opinion that "a well planned system for regulating the general training of nurses would assist the organisation of District Nursing in London." It was a resolution which, as one speaker pointed out, "left the matter in the air." I am not concerned with that, what I am concerned with is that the name of Miss Florence Nightingale should be dragged into the discussion. If people "vert" and support principles which once they opposed let them have the courage of their own opinions and say so. Why try to secure moral support for their change of front by evoking the shade of one who is dead and gone? To the end of her life Miss Nightingale affirmed that the State Registration of Nurses was "inexpedient in principle," and the principle is the same now as it was thirty years ago. What she would have thought had she been alive now is purely matter for conjecture. Mr. Pennant believes she would have "taken a different view." I disagree. Who shall decide? As well in years to come might some Londoner get up and say that if Lord Knutsford and Miss Lückes were alive they would "take a different view."

To me it seems disloyal to put words into Miss Nightingale's mouth which she would have strongly repudiated when living, now that she is dead and cannot do so. Let her rest in peace.

Yours faithfully,

R. I. P.

DAME TROT'S SCHOOL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Can you make perfectly plain in the simplest language, as if you were addressing the pupils in Dame Trot's School, the reason negotiations were broken off between the Central Committee and the College of Nursing about the Bill. I have read the Statement and think I grasp the situation, but so many others have not read it, and are being befogged by people who apparently do not understand the matter themselves. With the exception of the Irish, no nurse apparently ever asks a question at meetings where the College Gospel is expounded; all is taken for granted. But I realise that those grouped in the Central Committee who have been so keen about the organization of trained nursing through State Registration for so many years, when the majority of the College promoters opposed it, must

have had good reasons for their decision. Anyway, I hope my colleagues will not mind my inviting an explanation in the very simplest language, both for their enlightenment and my own.

Yours,

DAME TROT.

[We will address Dame Trot's School next week.—ED.]

TIRED OF TRAMMELS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—It is nothing new in Scotland to have nursing associations and nurses' affairs generally managed by men. We have never been given a chance of controlling our own affairs, and see no chance of it, so the Scottish Board of the College is quite what we might expect. It seems strange that it should be so, as Scottish nurses are independent in thought. We still work very long hours and receive very little pay, and tired and poor people are not usually on the look-out for further exertion. I have been working in Canada for several years and find things very behind here so far as working women are concerned. I mean to return there to a more self-respecting existence after the war, and many of my friends will go with me. I made acquaintance with the B.J.N. at Vancouver, where it is greatly considered.

Yours truly,

TIRED OF TRAMMELS.

Glasgow.

[We have heard several doctors say lately that nurses cannot be roused from their apathy concerning their own affairs, and won't even take the trouble to attend a meeting concerning them. Do these gentlemen realise what "tired and poor people" they usually are? Trained nurses not in active practice are often very public-spirited and keen.—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

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?

March 24th.—Describe how you would care for and feed a premature infant.

March 31st.—What is a civic nurse? Give an idea of her true relationship to the municipality and public health service.

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