

## 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.*

## THE NURSING PROFESSION IS NOT AN OBJECT OF CHARITY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The "National Fund for Nurses" adverted to in last week's Editorial is indeed an astounding piece of news. The College seems to be instigating a sort of charitable appeal for us nurses, without even consulting us, through our Associations. If this Benevolent Fund is to put the College on a permanent basis and the College is to be the Body for governing the nursing profession in the future, this proceeding appears to me to be most dangerous to our economic condition. The cost incurred by our enfranchisement must be defrayed by none but ourselves, or our freedom as a profession and our liberties as members of the same will be gravely jeopardised. He who pays the piper, &c. The Registration Fees if wisely administered should cover all the expenses of an independent Statutory Authority. We, as women, shall doubtless before long be able to exercise the power of the Parliamentary vote. As nurses under the present scheme of the College, we shall be inarticulate and under the rule of its lay governing body—a most anomalous and impossible position. Until the College gives adequate *direct* representation to the nurses themselves I look on its constitution as a very menacing danger, and I thoroughly deprecate the idea of being made use of to get money for its endowment.

Yours faithfully,

ELLEN B. KINGSFORD,

(Cert. St. Bartholomew's Hospital).

Fallow Corner Home for  
Homeless Children,  
North Finchley, N. 12.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Another surprise for us! I read in the Editorial of the JOURNAL for this week that the dramatic profession is proposing to take an oar and paddle our canoe for us! I wonder how it is that all sorts of men and women, without knowledge or experience, are seized with a passion for organising the Nursing Profession. Does it never occur to these unqualified people that if they would exercise their imagination and look at a reversal of the situation they would see the absurdity of this interference. What would the actresses think, and more especially, what would they say, if a group of trained Nurses were to set to work to establish schemes for their benefit without any consultation with them? And yet that is not more absurd than that the actresses

should concern themselves with our professional affairs. No doubt it is kindly meant, but that is not what we want. If the public want to help us, let them use all the influence and power they have in getting Parliament to pass a *just* Registration Act, on the lines of *pure democracy*, such as that drafted by the Central Committee for State Registration, through which a Central Authority, or General Nursing Council, will be set up, upon which Nurses will have direct representation, *Power to govern our own Profession.* (This principle cannot be too frequently reiterated.) Thus, when we have set our house in order, in other words, organised ourselves, we shall be in a position to consider and accept endowments for our professional education, just like other professions. When will the public realise that ours is a skilled Profession, and not a mere domestic hobby?

BEARTICE KENT.

Colosseum Terrace, N.W.

## QUEEN ALEXANDRA RELIEF FUND FOR NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I venture to ask if you would allow me, through the medium of your paper, to express, on behalf of the Committee of the Queen Alexandra Relief Fund for War Nurses, our sincere thanks to the members of the original Sisters' Mess at Malta, for their most generous gift of £21 to the Fund, which has been forwarded to us through Sister Carruthers. I should also like to take this opportunity of thanking all those Nurses who have so kindly placed donations in our collecting box at the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses, as I have received from the Secretary the sum of £4 1s. towards this Fund, which has been collected in the box. We are not only most grateful for this help, but glad to feel the efforts of this Fund for Nurses are so much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

MARY E. WATNEY,

Hon. Secretary.

We regret that, owing to great pressure on our space this week, several important communications are held over.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

## QUESTIONS.

May 12th.—Differentiate between (a) communicable, (b) contagious, and (c) infectious diseases, and give an example of each.

## ORDER "THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING."

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