

## 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.*

USEFUL AND FRIENDLY HELP  
REGRETTED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The National Union of Trained Nurses has been so useful and friendly in the past that we feel a real regret that this department of the pleasant offices in Westminster is no longer open to help us out of our difficulties in the future. Our consolation must be the knowledge that its various members can continue to use their characteristics and experience to great advantage in other fields.

Yours faithfully,  
B. M. BENTHAM,  
Sister-in-Charge.

The Fourth Auxiliary Hospital,  
Moseley, Birmingham.

## ANTI-PARASITIC VESTS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have read the article on Anti-Parasitic Vests, and should be obliged if you could give me the address where I could get all particulars for making them. The working party in this village would be glad to work if they had a pattern of these vests.

Believe me, yours truly,  
EVA K. THOMSON.

The Pool House, Groby, Leicester.

[As we have received several letters of enquiry we beg to refer the writers to the Editor of the *British Medical Journal*, 429, Strand, London, W., who may be able to give the information required.—ED.]

SIGN THE PETITION FOR GOVERNMENT  
BY CONSENT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Can you give me any information regarding the legality of the manner in which the guineas are being gathered from some nurses in support of the proposed College of Nursing, Ltd.

I recognise the right of anyone to ask money for any purpose, but not to bring undue pressure to induce payment. Statements are being made to the effect that the Honble. Arthur Stanley has sufficient interest to carry his Bill through Parliament, and that nurses who do not join now will find themselves in a very awkward position on the Bill becoming law. These statements have no foundation, and are likely to mislead the unthinking.

I should also like to know the meaning of the word "Representative," is a Matron *ex officio* an accredited representative of her nurses' opinions?

FAIR PLAY.

[We regret we cannot give an opinion on the legality of the method of collecting guineas from nurses by the College. The statement that if nurses do not join the College Register before an Act is in force, they will be under great disability, and will have to pass an examination at once, is not true. They need have no fears on that score. Parliament will provide in the Act for a period of grace for nurses, as it did for doctors and midwives in their Acts, when nurses in practice and of good character will have the *right* to register, after which time it is hoped a Central Examination by an independent Board will be enforced, without exempting the larger London hospitals. We do not consider a nominated person, matron or otherwise, represents any opinion other than her own. Miss Sparshott's claim at a recent meeting of the N.U.T.N. at Manchester, that the Matrons should "control" the College of Nursing, although the nurses pay for its upkeep, is very autocratic and untenable. All certificated nurses who desire to see a just and democratic Nurses' Act in force should sign the Petition to the Prime Minister, promoted by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses on the inside of front cover in this issue.—ED.]

## PLEASE STATE A CASE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Do you consider it right or seemly that Military nurses should accept gifts from their patients? I have seen such presentations reported in the papers several times, and it seems entirely undesirable, in my opinion, that either officers or Tommies should make gifts to the nursing staff. Such gifts were forbidden in every civil hospital in which I have worked, and rightly so. Please state a case.

Yours truly,  
MATRON MILITARY HOSPITAL.

[The case seems quite simple. We disapprove of hospital nurses in either civil or military hospitals accepting gifts from patients, because it places the former in a dubious position. Soldiers of all ranks are the most generous of men—the most chivalrous and grateful in their relations to women. We can imagine with what pleasure they would subscribe to give a popular Sister or nurse a parting gift, but we think such presentations should be strictly forbidden by military authority, so that a desirable standard of discipline can be maintained. It is not *convenient* to accept gifts from those dependent upon our professional services.—ED.]

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

## QUESTIONS.

June 2nd.—Explain what is meant by blood pressure.

June 9th.—Name some of the causes of the great mortality in infants, and how to prevent them.

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