

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.

NURSES WARNED BY NURSING COLLEGE COUNCIL NOT TO SIGN PETITION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—If anything can impress the average nurse with the danger of placing her personal liberty at the mercy of the autocratic Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., surely the recent circular issued by it, advising the nurse members in such terms, as to become in fact an order, not to sign the Petition to the Prime Minister asking for self-government, should do so. Nothing could, I believe, advance the cause we have at heart more than being able to place a reprint of this tyrannical document before members of the Government when presenting our Petition. It proves indisputably the danger to the personal liberty of members of the nursing profession, of handing them over to the uncontrolled authority of nominees of lay hospital committees, who have no right to exercise any authority over them, denying the while representation and power to the workers. This danger was emphasised by every speaker of the recent deputation to the Chairman of the Labour Party, and should be impressed upon the leaders of every Party in the House.

To recur to the anti-Petition Memorandum—it is the most insolent interference with our personal rights by this nominated Nursing Company which they have ventured to take so far. But what of the future? If this is done in the green tree, what will be done in the dry? Imagine the helpless position of the "registered nurse" in the future under a *legalised* College régime! It is a warning they should all take most seriously to heart.

The Matron of my Training School who is on the College Council sent me a copy. I promptly sent it on, with a strong covering letter, to the M.P. for the constituency in which the hospital is situated, and asked his protection for the submerged nursing staff of that institution, should a Nurses' Registration Bill be brought forward!

May I be permitted to advise my fellow nurses, who receive copies of the circular from their Schools to do likewise?

Yours indignantly,
A LOVER OF FREEDOM (T.F.N.S.).

[We learn the College Matrons are sending copies of this four-page Memorandum broadcast to nurses trained at the hospitals over which they rule. No wonder the College wants money to carry on its campaign. Its first Balance Sheet is awaited with interest.—ED.]

THE DEPRECIATION OF THE R.R.C.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have come to the conclusion I do not understand the meaning of the Royal Red Cross, as it seems to be distributed broadcast almost to anyone, which spoils the whole idea. Surely the recipients cannot feel any great honour in receiving it, as, in my opinion and experience anything easily gained counts but of little value. If it was confined purely to trained nurses (as it should be), who had achieved something in connection with the war, one would not mind; but it is extraordinary how some people get it. For instance, the Mayoress of a certain provincial town was presented with the R.R.C. through organizing a Russian Flag Day. Did you ever hear of anything so absurd? Under these conditions, the R.R.C. seems a perfect farce. How can trained nurses value it after a case like this. I cannot comprehend any Matron being content to receive second class honours when V.A.D.s seem to get first class quite easily (with influence, of course). I am very sorry to say so many in our profession are quite ready and content to stay in the background and never raise a hand or thought to try and defend themselves or their profession. It is high time trained nurses were awake to the seriousness of their position. State registration will be their one salvation.

Yours truly,
Westgrove, Gloucester. F. T. PETER.

A CONCESSION.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

Upon the request of a large number of old subscribers, whose expenses have gone up during the war, it has been decided that members of societies affiliated to the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, of which it is the official organ, shall have the privilege of having THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, if obtained direct from the office, for 6s. 6d. for a year, post free, provided this sum is sent in advance to the Manager, 431 Oxford Street, London, W. 1.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

QUESTIONS.

July 7th.—What do you consider the best means for increasing the supply of practising midwives?
July 14th.—How would you nurse a case of perforation of the bladder, before and after operation?

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