

## 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.*

## M.A.B. AND UNIFORM.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—During the last few weeks, various letters have appeared in your paper, protesting against the action of the members of the Metropolitan Asylums Board in introducing at their various hospitals one material for uniform, e.g., "Oxford shirting," to be worn by all members of the Nursing staff.

As one of the staff of an M.A.B. hospital, I would like to point out:—

(1) That the writers of those protesting letters had apparently not made themselves acquainted with the exact wording of the notice printed in a previous number of the B.J.N., which distinctly stated: "Oxford Shirting" for all Nursing Staff with Badges representing the Arms of the Board for the Sisters, and with "chevrons" for the different grades of Nurses.

(2) For "other staff" (principally heads and higher salaried staff in the Domestic Dept.) "plain Oxford shirting" to be worn. Kitchen, laundry and wardmaids were not mentioned.

I feel quite sure that the M.A.B. authorities do not, and never did, intend to give the same colour and pattern of Oxford shirting to the nursing and domestic staff.

Regarding the advisability of having "Sisters'" uniform dress material different to nurses', it may or may not be satisfactory, but it is worth trying, and surely no trained woman would ever object to be called "Nurse" by those who are not able to distinguish the different grades in a hospital.

After all, a "Sister" is a fully qualified nurse; a "staff nurse" is a qualifying nurse; a "Probationer" is an embryo nurse; so we are all nurses and all striving for the same thing, "to tend and help the sick"; it seems to me that protests over such a trivial thing as material or colour of uniform, point out that those who do feel it is of such vital importance, have lost the spirit of their profession. A Sister should not have to depend upon the colour of her dress to enable her to maintain her position in a hospital, that is a matter entirely dependent upon her capability and individuality. I understand that this change is due to the fact of there being great difficulty in obtaining dye—owing to the war, and as the uniform has been altered to meet this difficulty, it appears that there are some unpatriotic people in the M.A.B. service.

Yours, E. N. N.

## STATE REGISTRATION MONEY BOX.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have just read Miss Beatrice Kent's letter and think her suggestion is splendid, that each member of the Society for State Regis-

tration of Nurses, which has done wonders in furthering this great cause, should keep a money box on her dressing-table and drop a ½d. in it each Sunday morning as a donation to the Society, and I trust the 4,000 members will think as I do. I will not follow Miss Kent's example by sending the first year's money in advance, as I might forget to begin at all the second year. So the money box, *labelled*, containing the first ½d., begins to-day.

I enclose a cheque for 1 guinea as a small donation to the Society, and wish it were in my power to do far more, to show my gratitude to you and those who have so faithfully and unselfishly worked for a just cause.

Yours ever sincerely,

CHARLOTTE OKELL

(Late Matron the Hospital, Bridgwater).

Bath Street, Brighton.

## NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The kind words of your article on the National Union of Trained Nurses, in this week's BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, are so true that I am now writing to ask you to insert this short letter.

The nurses must realise that the matter is now in their own hands. The Union is here, ready to do all that is possible for them, but they must come forward, join this self-governing body, and then let the Committee know of the many ways in which they consider that help is needed.

We know that in your valuable JOURNAL OF NURSING full publicity will be given to all schemes for the good of nurses.

Yours faithfully,

M. F. RIMMER,

Joint Hon. Sec.

[We regret that many letters have to be held over this week—ED.]

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

February 10th.—How would you prepare for giving a Hypodermic Injection? State what a hypodermic tray should contain.

February 17th.—Describe Bed-making, and how to lift and move patients.

February 24th.—Describe how to give a nasal douche, the articles used, and danger to avoid.

## NOTICE.

The Secretary of the Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., will be obliged if members will acquaint themselves with the present rates of postage, as many cards arrive under-stamped, causing great trouble, and the recovery of the excess postage paid from the delinquent, as it is not fair that one insured member should have to pay for another.

## OUR ADVERTISERS.

Do not omit to buy, as far as possible, everything you need from "Our Advertisers." Their financial support helps us; we must help them, and they are all first-class firms.

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