

## 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.*

## IRISH BOARD, COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In your issue of June 23rd, under the heading, "The Irish Nursing Board," you mention the fact that the Royal City of Dublin Hospital, which until recently has had only a two years' training, is now giving a term of three years. Owing to the position in which you have placed this statement, it is likely to be misunderstood and the reform taken as one effected by the Irish Nursing Board. I should like it to be made clear that, although the authorities of the Royal City of Dublin Hospital have had this matter under consideration for some years, it is finally in consequence of the establishment of the College of Nursing, Ltd., that they have decided to make this important change in their regulations, in order that their nurses may be eligible to be placed on the College Register.

Yours faithfully,

VERA MATHESON,  
Secretary.

[Our statements are always so direct that only very stupid persons should misunderstand them, and we made it quite clear that the persistent anti-registrationists in connection with the Royal City of Dublin Hospital were supporting the College of Nursing, Ltd., in its attempt to govern the Nursing Profession without its consent. The fact that hospitals which have for years deprived their nurses of the very necessary third year's training and certificate have at last been compelled to come into line with the demand of the State Registrationists for a three years' term of training is a very significant sign of public feeling. As soon as our Bill passed its first reading, under the ten minutes' rule in the House of Commons, by a large majority in 1914, the death knell of anti-registration obstruction was clearly sounded; and we are glad to know that, in spite of signing every manifesto against the principles of State Registration issued in recent years, the officials of the Royal City of Dublin Hospital at last profess themselves converted. It is the history of Woman's Suffrage all over again. Many politicians are ready to reap where they have not sown! We are of opinion that, as Miss Vera Matheson, the Secretary of the College of Nursing Irish Board, has so recently entered the arena of nursing politics, and as her experience is strictly limited, she might well study nursing history before offering advice to the experienced leaders of the movement for nursing reform through State organization.—ED.]

## TYPE OF LETTER RECEIVED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—Having just returned from over two years' foreign service, I find the Petition to the Prime Minister in full swing, so if not too late, please add my name. I also enclose P.O. for 5s. to pay my subscription for 1917 to the Society of State Registration of Trained Nurses, the surplus to be added to the general fund.

Trusting we shall soon have a Bill through Parliament on the lines of that first drafted years ago and which would entitle us to add R.N. after our names, and with no special clauses for large London hospitals and V.A.D.s. but one examination for all.

Yours sincerely, G. M. S.

[This letter proves the unfairness of trying to rush nursing legislation in the absence of thousands of trained nurses at the front.—ED.]

## WHY HINT?

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Many of the nurses in this military hospital would willingly discard their stiff starched cuffs and collars, and save labour by wearing unstarched aprons, but apparently what has been, must be, so far as military nursing red tape is concerned. In summer, stand-up collars are most uncomfortable wear, and hard cuffs disliked by the patients; unstarched aprons are not really dirtier than those stiffened, and that is all that matters so far as the patients are concerned.

The American nurses wear soft turned-down collars and cuffs, which are far prettier and more comfortable than our pattern, and for nursing the arms should be bare. Hints in high places do not appear to have any effect.

Yours truly,

ONE WHO DISLIKES CHOKERS.

[Why hint? If a change of uniform is more hygienic, comfortable and cheap, why not requisition in the right quarter that it should be made?—ED.]

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

## QUESTIONS.

July 14th.—How would you nurse a case of perforation of the bladder, before and after operation?

July 21st.—Give a brief description of the spinal cord. What are its functions?

July 28th.—(a) What symptoms may be found in an infant who is suffering from congenital syphilis? (b) What symptoms may develop in a new-born infant if the mother is suffering from gonorrhoea?

We regret that there have been no adequate replies to our prize competition question this week. Yet "What do you consider the best means for increasing the supply of practising midwives" is a very live topic.

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