

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.

MILITARY NURSING SISTERS' CLUB.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—It has only now been brought to my notice that in an article published in your journal in the month of July last, mention was made of the fact that there is no club for Sisters and Nurses at Boulogne. I shall be most grateful if this statement can be corrected. My club, which has also acted for the last year and more as a hostel for Sisters and Nurses passing through Boulogne, was opened 2½ years ago, and has been open continuously ever since, except for a fortnight last winter, when the club was in quarantine. There are over 3,000 members.

The club is recognised by the War Office and at G.H.Q., France, and it is in connection with no other institution. I am *not* anxious that this place should be advertised, except amongst those of the nursing profession and members of the nursing staffs of the military hospitals, but it seemed unwise to allow the mistake to go uncontradicted.

Believe me, yours, &c.,

MARJORY ROBERTSON-EUSTACE.

Military Nursing Sisters' Club,
Boulogne.

[We have much pleasure in publishing this letter, but reference to the paragraph in our issue of July 28th will show that we did not state that there was no club for military nurses in Boulogne; but, referring to those managed by a committee of which Princess Victoria is President, stated that it was hoped to start one in Boulogne. We feel sure that Mrs. Eustace's club is doing very good work and is much appreciated by Sisters and Nurses in Boulogne.—ED.]

OFFICERS' RANK FOR MILITARY NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—As a contributor to your valuable paper for the past seven years, I have followed with much interest the many articles and discussions on nursing in all its branches.

On August 4th there appeared an extract from a letter from the *Chicago Post*, which has aroused no small interest, or rather I should say, indignation, amongst the nursing profession, regarding the status of nursing in America as compared to that of Britain.

May I be allowed to voice the views of the majority of Nursing Sisters in France? Why should the British Sisters work without either rank or position, whilst the American and Colonial

Sisters are given stars according to their rank, &c. The military Sisters joined up practically on the outbreak of hostilities and helped to open and organise hospitals for the reception of our sick and wounded, and have brought them to what they consider a high standard of efficiency for active service, and often under most strenuous and trying circumstances.

Nursing Sisters on mobilisation were given to understand that they held at least the complimentary rank of officer, until asked to accept the Military Medal, a decoration given only to N.C.O.s and men.

How can we possibly demand courtesy and discipline from orderlies and those working under us, whilst we ourselves have no official rank whatever?

Another point we wish to discuss is: Why are efficiency stripes and forms of certificates for proficiency in medical and surgical nursing given to so-called Military V.A.D.s without an examination or test of their knowledge, but merely through influence. And in one case known to me, given to a V.A.D. who had never even been in a medical ward?

In view of all these facts, surely it is high time we were promoted to the rank of officer, the same as our American and Colonial Sisters, and our stars given to us to denote such rank.

I am, yours faithfully,

A CONSTANT READER.

A Stationary Hospital,
B.E.F., France.

[We are greatly in sympathy with officers' rank for military Nurses, but fear, as so many of them are required to subscribe to the "Serf Clause," before being appointed, there is little hope of advancement so long as it stands as part of their contract with the War Office. First get this tyrannous clause deleted from the contract, and then a more honourable status may be claimed.—Ed.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

QUESTIONS.

September 8th.—How would you care for a child suffering from chronic heart disease? In what ways could you make life easier for him?

September 15th.—What are bacteria? How do they grow?

September 22nd.—Say what you know about war wounds.

September 29th.—Mention maladies in the newly-born, and the usual treatment and nursing.

OUR ADVERTISERS.

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

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)