

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.

OFFICERS' RANK FOR MILITARY NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I note under the above heading that "A Constant Reader" asks:—"May I be allowed to voice the views of the majority of Nursing Sisters in France," and continues, "Why should the British Sisters work without either rank or position, whilst American and Colonial Sisters are given stars according to their rank?" May I be permitted to voice the views of the majority of Nursing Sisters at home in supporting Officers' rank for Military Nurses? Also may I express the opinion that we shall never attain it until we have fresh blood on the Nursing Board at the War Office. The ladies of title and civil matrons who comprise it have agreed to the degrading "Serf Clause," even if they did not instigate it, and as you truly say there is no hope of a more honourable status for us so long as it stands part of our contract with the War Office. We Sisters are not permitted to take any public action in self-defence, and in addressing this letter to the press, I of course must not sign my name. I ask you, with the Secretary of State for War, the Director-General of the Army Medical Department, the Matrons-in-Chief, the Members of the Nursing Board, and the Advisory Nursing Council, T.F., all against us, how are we to obtain justice? It seems quite hopeless during the war.

"A PUKKA RED CAPE."

[Surely no fight for justice is hopeless if those in arms have sufficient courage, however hydra-headed the enemy! If the representatives of the State refuse to adjust wrongs, then the people must appeal direct to Parliament. This is what we should do if we were a "Pukka Red Cape." We gather from Miss McMillan's letter, which appears in another column, that American Army Nurses are asking for officers' rank, so that their services may more effectively aid their sick and wounded. This was no doubt the reason why young and vigorous Canada has taken a lead in this connection and placed its Military Nursing Service on a sound disciplinary basis.—ED.]

HOW TO MAKE USE OF A PROFESSIONAL JOURNAL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Having been very hard wrought lately I had not even time to open my journals; so that the pleasure of reading Miss B. Kent's article "Ether Day" (Aug. 11th, p. 88) was not mine till two days ago. Miss Kent attributes the discovery of chloroform—as most do—to Dr. J. Simpson,

but when I read the account of it, it seemed clear that not he, but the chemist—I forget his name—who introduced it to the doctor was the real discoverer of its beneficent power. The people of Linlithgow seem to be of the same opinion, for when I was there in Sept. 1914 there was a subscription afoot for a memorial to him. It is only the old story again of the wrong man getting the credit and the fame. The chemist belonged to Linlithgow.

Miss Dora Vine's recipe for linseed and liquorice jelly (Aug. 18th, p. 98) is most useful and interesting, but one would be glad to know if this lactagogue should be used ante-natally, or post-natally only.

I have ordered Miss Heddermann's book, "Glimpses of My Life in Aran," and mean to let it out for reading at 6d. a time to help her fund for house building. All who wish may adopt the idea—the more the better.

I cannot help just now saying how grateful all we nurses should be for our own most excellent journal, and yet so few nurses comparatively will pay for it. I'm told the other nursing papers (so-called) are full of nothing but the College controversy, while ours is full of useful and entertaining reading from the first page to the last.

Trusting I have not troubled you with trifling matters.

I am, yours faithfully,

Glasgow.

EMMA HORTON.

[We thank Miss Horton for the intelligent use she makes of "our own Journal."—ED.]

NOTICE.

ELEMENTARY LECTURES ON INFANT CARE.

The National Association also announces a course of lectures on Infant Care for Teachers, Infant Welfare Workers and Mothers, &c., to be held at 1, Wimpole Street, London, W., on Mondays from 5.30 to 6.30 p.m., 1st October to December 17th. Apply to Miss Halford, 4, Tavistock Square, London, W.C. 1.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

QUESTIONS.

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.

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