

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.

ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—As Mr. Smallwood, M.P., has given what purports to be his experience of Hospital No. 20 in France, perhaps I may be permitted to give mine.

My son, Captain Meysey Thompson, was grievously wounded in September, 1917, and in consequence I was telegraphed for and went to see him. Nothing could exceed the consideration and forethought shown by the medical authorities and particularly those connected with this hospital, in the arrangements made for my journey and reception. The Matron of the above hospital is well known for her aptitude and the exceptional kindness she has shown both to the patients and their relatives. My son has now been four months in this hospital, and he cannot speak too highly of their attention. He writes to me to say that the greatest indignation is felt amongst the patients at the allegations made by Mr. Smallwood, whose statements do not tally with the recollections of those who are in the hospital. My son is a barrister of over thirty years of age, and accustomed to weigh evidence, and he is most careful in his statements.

I write this letter because I think it right that the public should know that the reputation which this hospital generally enjoys is widely different from the character which Mr. Smallwood chose to give it.

Yours faithfully,

MABEL MEYSEY THOMPSON.

74, Oxford Terrace,
Hyde Park, W.

[It is right that people should speak as they find, but we think Mr. Smallwood is the best judge of what took place between himself and the Matron. He was not permitted to remain the night with his dying son, and in our opinion this human right should have been conceded. Personally, we should, under the circumstances, have refused to leave the ward.—ED.]

LAY CONTROL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—“One of the Herd” points a moral in your last issue as to lay control of the Nursing Profession.

Here is an instance of its dangers:—

I had to interview a nurse recently for a private nursing institution.

Amongst her certificates she brought one from the College of Nursing, signed by Sir Arthur Stanley and told me her Matron (a strong College partisan)

had made all the certificated nurses join, and they had never seen the rules they signed to conform to.

When I wrote to this matron for a reference she gave one which in my opinion did not qualify the candidate for membership of this staff. Thus nurses are recommended for registration by the College, and Sir Arthur Stanley makes himself responsible to the public for their characters and professional “prowess,” who cannot be fully recommended to nurse the public, by the very matron who has helped to make him a Nursing Dictator.

The position appears to me thoroughly unjustifiable for all concerned—especially for the public, and the unfortunate girls who have bought this Registration Certificate upon the commendation of a Matron who is not prepared to thoroughly recommend them for a position of responsibility.

Yours truly,

ONE WHO OBJECTS TO LAY CONTROL.

[The Registration Authority should be composed of professional persons, who alone are qualified to define professional standards and maintain discipline in the ranks of a profession.—ED.]

WHICH IS THE MOST CLEANLY WAY TO TAKE A TEMPERATURE?

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I should like if possible to get the opinion of other trained nurses on the correct and most reliable method of taking an ordinary patient's temperature. The Matron of the Military Hospital where I am working objects to the method of putting the thermometer in the mouth on the score that it is not cleanly, although the thermometers are taken round in a glass jar in which is a solution of carbolic. Phthisis patients always have their own thermometers. Personally, I think a *trained nurse* should be allowed to use her own discretion, especially if she finds, as I have done, that the method as above described is absolutely reliable, quite cleanly, and reduces the breakages to a minimum.

Yours sincerely,

“PERPLEXED.”

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

QUESTIONS.

February 16th.—What are some grave complications to be watched for after an extensive burn?

February 23rd.—Define thrombosis and the details of nursing required.

We regret that we are unable to award a prize this week, as none of the papers sent in were of sufficient merit.

FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

A Nurse Masseuse is required for this Corps to work in the North of France. Apply to Mrs. Fenwick, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Interview by appointment.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)