

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.

WHIPPING UP THE GUINEAS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I beg to enclose to you a "whip" which I have received from the Secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd. It is, as you see, *in print*, so presumably I am not the only inquirer who has failed to send a guinea fee, and who is being threatened. I very strongly object to the tone of this communication, and as other nurses have asked me if they are compelled to pay now they have reconsidered the matter, and have decided that a *voluntary* register is of no use to them, I want to make it plain that these "whips" have no legal significance, as they are evidently intended to convey that impression to nurses who know nothing of business.

Now that the College has failed to get a Bill through Parliament giving a monopoly to its register, according to its printed promise, many nurses prefer to wait to register till a Nurses' Registration Bill becomes law, and they are given legal status for their money.—Yours truly,

"A STATE REGISTRATIONIST."

COPY OF LETTER TO OUR CORRESPONDENT

The College of Nursing, Ltd.,
6, Vere Street, London, W. 1.

DEAR MADAM,—On — July, 1917, I notified the approval by the Council of the College of your application for Registration with the College. On that date, and subsequently in a second letter of October —, 1917, I again requested you to forward your Registration Fee. Having had no reply to the two previous applications, I have now, in fulfilment of the Regulations governing the admission of approved applicants to the Register of the College to inform you that your Registration Fee of One Guinea must be paid by the — December, 1917, or, failing this, your name cannot be entered on the Register and your application will be cancelled, unless you can explain to the satisfaction of the Council why you are unable to pay.

I remain, Yours faithfully,

M. S. RUNDLE, Secretary.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING AND V.A.D.s.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—With reference to the letter from Sir Arthur Stanley in your last issue, in which he states that the College "stands exclusively for the trained nurses," we should be glad to know how he reconciles this with his statement published in a leading paper that "our endeavour will be to organize the acceptance of the V.A.D.s by the College of Nursing."

The College promoters cannot, *I know*, deny that they had the intention of admitting V.A.D.s

in some shape or form when they started their scheme, and if the idea is not still extant why did Sir Arthur make the above statement?

Yours faithfully,

E. L. C. EDEN.

National Union of Trained Nurses.

THE FUTURE OF PRIVATE NURSING.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—As one who has suffered from lack of work, I should like to state my opinion.

Private nursing when the war is over will be nil, and the sooner one realizes it the better. If work is slack now, with hundreds of nurses away and all hospitals fully staffed, what will it be like when all the nurses are free from war work?

I agree with Miss Brodrick, that had any other profession been treated as we have been in this war they would have "downed tools" and come out on strike. But, alas! we have blacklegs in our profession. May I give two experiences of my own?

Last year I went to do holiday duty in a hospital for officers in London. There were five fully trained sisters, all doing private nursing till the war broke out. They were perfectly content to have an untrained Matron over them, their excuse being that a trained Matron would interfere with the nursing!!!

I hold no brief for the V.A.D.s, but I never admired them more than at this hospital. The Sisters did the very few surgical dressings, but the rest of the nursing was done by the V.A.D.s, besides waiting on the Sisters hand and foot.

Most of the V.A.D.s were well educated clever girls, and keen on their work. Is it to be expected when the war is over, that these girls will think it necessary to have nurses when their people are ill? I doubt it.

Soon after this, I was offered a post as Sister in a hospital for Tommies. This, also, was run by an untrained Commandant. Two V.A.D.s did the bulk of the surgical work and managed the theatre entirely. They had had three months' hospital training, and their idea of asepsis was such that they dusted the wards and then went and took the operations in the same overalls. The Sister-in-charge had to allow it or leave; she stayed and I left.

If V.A.D.s are allowed to have charge of theatres and are considered competent on three months' training to nurse badly wounded men, why should we work hard for three or four years to get a certificate? There is something wrong somewhere.

Yours faithfully,

"LOYAL."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

January 5th.—Mention some diseases of the intestines and their treatment and nursing.

January 12th.—How would you irrigate a bowel for colitis?

January 19th.—Describe the apparatus required and method employed for (a) Washing out the stomach, (b) Washing out the bladder.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)