

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.

NOT A NATIONAL FUND.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am delighted to read the letter in the current issue of the Journal, over the signature of C. C. Syme. Assuming the writer to be of the masculine gender, I should like to offer him the tribute of my grateful thanks for his fair-mindedness, and also for his ready grasp of the essential points of the situation. He is like Homocœa, he "touches the spot"! Yes, I can assure C. C. Syme that he has been correctly informed, the College of Nursing Co., Ltd., is governed by self-appointed personages, and they have therefore no right whatever to "commit the whole profession" to an appeal for charity, without their consent, and against the wishes, of self-respecting members. It goes deeper than this, however. The amassing of large sums of money by a lay Corporation would prove a considerable danger, because it would place present and future generations of nurses under the bondage of lay control and patronage.

We should heartily welcome a good many more champions like C. C. Syme.

Yours truly,

BEATRICE KENT.

V.A.D. PROMOTION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The real "assistant" nurses who have had three years' fever or children's training, or two years' general, must feel anxious at the latest V.A.D. promotion. If the new assistant nurses have had some training they will be useful, but the majority of V.A.D.s are not anxious to be trained. There are nurses in hospital after two years' service, who can't (or won't) give a simple enema, do not know how to tepid sponge a patient, but at the same time do dressings! They never seem to remember that a fomentation is not a piece of lint wrung out of a tepid bowl by hand.

I wonder what recognition trained Sisters are to have after two and three years' service. They cannot all have charge of a ward, but must be content to work on like our men in the trenches—the same old hours at the same old pay.

If a Sister goes to a new hospital she is "junior" to the others, no matter what her term of service is. Sometimes, by a stroke of luck, a young sister fresh from hospital gets a senior post, while the older ones stand by. I suppose it is all part of our self-sacrificing profession to work on and say nothing, but when a Sister with previous service has to work hard for £40, and a junior nurse, after one year, is offered £30, it makes one sit up and think.

Yours faithfully,

EX-ARMY-SISTER;

IT SEEMS SO LONESOME.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—I do not think we make half enough of the loyalty to the Mother Country of our overseas troops.

I was recently amongst the Australians at a Camp on Salisbury Plain. Talk of "No Man's Land." It is in a wilderness. No wonder those poor fellows, when they come to London, are led into temptation. I call it cruelty expecting those men, many of them not more than eighteen, to keep straight. My blood boils when I think of it. One boy said, "It seems so lonesome," and he looked so homesick. Another was writing to his wife; he had been parted from her for three years, and had two children. All those Y.M.C.A.s are splendid, but why send Colonials to a wilderness?

Yours, &c.,

MOTHER-SENSE.

THE LOST LADY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Could any Matron, Sister or Nurse give information as to a lady who has disappeared from the Grosvenor Hotel, Victoria, on February 14th? She has been under medical treatment and may be suffering from loss of memory; age forty five, slim build, was wearing a black coat and skirt with thin white stripes, white silk blouse, sable stole and muff, black three-cornered hat (velvet), all underclothing and handkerchiefs are marked Nita Rate.

Anyone knowing anything of missing lady, will they phone 88, Ebury Street, S.W., or A. H. Williams, Solicitor, of Edinburgh Lodge, Howick Place, Westminster.

A FRIEND.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

March 23rd.—What causes Bomb Dermatitis, and how is it treated?

March 30th.—Give a brief account of the symptoms and course of a case of tuberculous meningitis. Give in detail your management of such a case.

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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)