

## 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.*

## A CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I do not know when I felt so pleased as when I opened my B.J.N. last week and read the Editorial, "A Consultative Committee of Experts." I was whisked back to the good old days just thirty years ago, when we founded the B.N.A. with such high hopes and singleness of purpose. I have long ceased to be a member, but now that the R.B.N.A. has defined once again in black and white that it stands for all the professional aspirations for which the "explorers" have worked for so long, I shall hope to again become a member of the Royal Chartered Corporation, and I hope many of the early members will do likewise and unite in support of the "Justice for Nurses' Bill." The old attitude towards women of ignoring their opinions and desires, will pass away with this unrepresentative Parliament, and we must be ready to promote legislation agreeable to free women in the coming Parliament we shall help to elect. We staunch Registrationists who have watched the negotiations between the College of Nursing and the R.B.N.A., heartily congratulate the Committee of the latter (and, incidentally ourselves) that our Royal Charter has been preserved to the nurses who have the wisdom to make use of it.

Yours truly,

A MEMBER OF BART.'S LEAGUE.

## WHY NOT A RAID STAR?

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—What a good idea. We certainly ought to have a "Raid Star," to be given to Nurses and others who see active service during a raid. Already hospitals and Nursing Homes have been struck, and report always confirms that the personnel "carry on" with splendid courage and coolness. The French are wise to quickly give recognition, but they have a much keener appreciation of *La Gloire* than we have.

Yours sincerely,

A CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL SISTER.

## THE OPEN HAND.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The Lyceum Club has set a good example. It is high time a few forcible resolutions were passed on the dangerous power of Germans in our midst. Talk of hidden hands—there is nothing hidden in this hospital where German influence is concerned! These rich German-born Jews, even if naturalised, buy their influence in the most unblushing manner.

They plank down thousands, and apparently the Committee is as obsequious as the officials. The truth is, these people cannot change their psychology by denying their nationality and assuming ours. They are here to exploit us and for no other purpose, and wherever there is power there they buy patronage. It makes my blood boil to see British-born people willing to kow-tow to, or employ, these treacherous aliens for the sake of money.

A SISTER OF BRITISH DESCENT.

[We entirely sympathise with the opinions of this British-born Sister.—ED.]

## THE REGISTRATION OF SPECIALISTS UNJUST TO NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I do hope you will "keep it up" about the registration of specialists. I, unfortunately, am one; and I wrote to you once before to prove to you how unjust is the special training system—just good for the hospitals, but most unfair to the nurses. I told you, as I had been trained in a Fever Hospital only, I was refused for military service at the beginning of the war, and only used by the Red Cross as a stop gap. Since then, just to test my disadvantages, I have applied and been refused work in both Army Reserves—in the F.F.N.C., in the Colonial Nursing Service; as Sister and Matron in a general hospital; and on the R.N.S. To fit myself to help the sick and wounded on a dignified basis, I have trained as a masseuse, and am hard at it. But after spending seven years in a Fever Hospital, I am not a qualified trained nurse, and am now too old to begin a three years' training in a general hospital. There are dozens in my plight; and your claim that we should have reciprocal training, fever and general, and then be eligible for the General Register when a Nurses' Registration Act is in force is only just. Children's Hospital nurses must not be side-tracked by the Employers (College) Bill; reciprocal training for them also must be provided in a "Justice for Nurses' Bill."

Yours faithfully,

I. S. T. M.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

## QUESTIONS.

April 6th.—(a) What symptoms may be found in an infant who is suffering from congenital syphilis? (b) What symptoms may develop in a new-born infant if the mother is suffering from gonorrhœa?

April 13th.—How would you irrigate a bladder? What would you prepare for washing out (a) the stomach, (b) the bladder?

April 20th.—Describe in detail the management of twin labour after the birth of the first child, and give reasons for all you do.

April 27th.—How would you prepare the following for the surgeon's use?—Gauge sponges, silkworm gut, gum elastic catheters, serum syringes, and rubber gloves.

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