

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.

THE SERF CLAUSE MUST GO.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am amazed to find that the hope that we were allowed to entertain—concerning the deletion of the "Serf Clause," which nurses joining the Imperial Army Nursing Service and the Territorial Nursing Service are required to sign—has not been fulfilled. Now, what do we see in this? Surely nothing less than a challenge to our consciences. We should be verily guilty concerning our sisters if we were callously and selfishly to pass over this great wrong with just a pious sigh. Let no nurse say she is too busy to protest against what is wrong—it is an obvious duty. What is the essence, the spirit of *esprit de corps*? Is it not this: "Whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it?" There must be no schism in the body of trained nurses, and those who consent either negatively or positively to this scandalous clause are false to this ideal. Are we not fighting for justice and freedom from oppression? Let us at least be consistent and set our own house in order. I learn that three nurses (matrons) are members of the Nursing Board at the War Office. Can it be that they consent to this degrading Clause? If so, it is quite the greatest insult offered to the nursing profession that I have ever heard of, because it comes from *within the camp*. I believe all of them are members of the Council of the College of Nursing Co., Ltd., which calls itself "democratic"! I intend to send a protest to Lord Derby and others responsible for this insult to patriotic nurses, and I call upon all nurses with any sense of *esprit de corps* to do the same. Let us fight for the honour of our beloved profession and break the fetters of enslavement.

Yours indignantly,

BEATRICE KENT,

Trained Nurses' Protection Committee.

DEAR MADAM,—I have just received this week's issue of the B.J.N., and read with "consternation and indignation" that the "Serf Clause" that nurses are compelled to sign on joining the Army Military Service is to remain the "Serf Clause," in spite of protests on the part of the independent trained nurses who are fighting for the rights of the nurses, and for the freedom of the nursing profession!

I am at once writing to the Director-General of the Army Medical Service, who is the Chairman of the Advisory Board, to voice my protest against this act of tyranny and oppression; but the chief blame and responsibility lie with those "women

members of the Board who could if they would," protect and defend the liberties of the nurses who are at their mercy!

Yours faithfully,

A LATE SUPERINTENDENT OF NURSES.

P.S.—Please send me at once a dozen copies of last week's issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. I am working in connection with a military hospital and will distribute the copies marked, and warn nurses of the dangers ahead.

MENTAL REFRESHMENT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—It may be of interest to readers of the B.J.N. to know that there is a delightful exhibition of old furniture and allied craftsmanship at the Geffery Museum in Kingsland Road, about a quarter of a mile from Shoreditch Church, trams passing the door frequently.

The building was originally reserved for the Ironmongers' Almshouses, erected in the eighteenth century. In order to preserve the quaint building from demolition the London County Council acquired the property and adapted the building as a museum of old furniture and the allied crafts. Admission is free, and a more delightful tour cannot be spent than in roaming through the rooms and revelling in the treasures of bygone days.

Such delightful old doors with their beautiful knockers and charming fanlights above, carved chests with complicated locks, massive enough to hide many State secrets, carvings by Grindley Gibbons, frescoes, and many lovely art treasures.

Dainty tea services, suitable for the leisured hour of by-gone splendour.

The beautiful colours of hanging carpets and silks transport one to the land of the Arabian Nights.

There are some exquisite Japanese pictures with their beautiful colouring, their unmatched greys and blues forming a charming background for the brilliant birds and flowers.

Tokio is well represented in pictures and a comprehensive model.

Such an exhibition is a very charming interlude from present-day conditions. There one forgets for a little while the sad condition of the ever-present war.

CATHARINE WRIGHT.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

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?—Gauze sponges, silkworm gut, gum elastic catheters, serum syringes, and rubber gloves.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)