

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.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—“Retired Army Sister” appears to have a poor opinion of the modern Army Nurse, but, unbusinesslike as we may be, we are not all actuated by the scramble for honours! Personally, I don't wish an R.R.C. now they stand for so little. I agree that many nurses are very remiss about signing contracts. In our hospital Matron called for volunteers for the Reserve. We all put our names down as soon as we got our certificates. Matron handed out Application Papers, and we signed them. I feel sure I never grasped about the “Serf” Clause—it is very humiliating—but if military discipline cannot be maintained without such powers, what is to be done? Women are very tiresome, and discipline is not what it used to be in Training Schools.

Yours truly,

A RESERVE SISTER.

ENMITY IN EVERY BREATH.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have just given up a case in a naturalised German Jew family; they could not suppress their glee at the reverses of British arms in France, although not a word was uttered before me I felt their enmity in every breath. Once a German always a German, and I won't take a farthing of their money, although no doubt, as “A Sister of British Descent” writes, it has all been accumulated at our expense.

Yours sincerely,

PRIVATE NURSE.

DRAWING THE TEETH OF THE LEAGUES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Lord Knutsford is credited with the expression of opinion “that Miss McIntosh would never be Matron of Barts, until she was President of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses.” This may or may not be a *canard*, but the objection of the powers that be (hospital Governors and officials) to Leagues of Nurses acting as other than social societies is well known. “The London” and St. Thomas' Hospital nurses have never been encouraged to associate themselves into a League, and now, as you say, the “College Matrons,” who have shown such intolerance of direct representation of the Nurses' Societies, and the Nursing Profession, on their own Governing Body, and have set to and defined professional standards for us, and drafted a Bill, without consulting us, in the most contemptuous manner, are concerned in detaching the Leagues from our National Council.

Why? The Constitution of our Council under which they joined has not been altered, and the principles incorporated in the Registration Bill they have supported in the past are still incorporated in it.

Moreover, the “College Matrons” profess now to approve of all our principles, although they have failed to have them secured in the College Bill.

If our National Council had altered its policy, or the College did not profess to approve of State Registration, there might be some excuse for their attack upon the liberty of the Leagues, but under present conditions we can only conclude that these ladies are in reality opposed to nurses holding any opinions but their own, or being given the power to express them. It is notorious that they will not let the nursing staffs under their control hear both sides of the present nursing controversy, for and against the control of the nursing profession by the Nursing Schools. Miss Cox-Davies and Miss Barton have already “removed” their Leagues from the National Council, and now I hear Miss Vincent proposes to raise objections to our continuing to support our own Bill at our next annual meeting at Leicester.

Yours very truly,

“A MEMBER OF THE LEICESTER LEAGUE.”

[At this crisis of the Nursing Profession every nurse worth her salt should come out and stand for self-governing legislation, not only for her own safety, but as the trustee of future generations of nurses. If the “College Matrons” use their influence to detach the Nurses' Leagues from their National Organization, and render them innocuous in this struggle of the workers for just conditions, individual nurses should join the R.B.N.A., which has the power of the Royal Charter behind it, and which can and will in the future safeguard their interests. We have got to remember that the College policy is directed and enforced by its male Hon. Officers and their *fidus achates* Sir Henry Burdett, although no doubt the more reactionary Matrons support it, and that its autocratic policy is revealed in its Memorandum and Articles of Association, which but few of the nurse members of the College have ever seen. Study our inside cover page ii.—Ed.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

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

May 4th.—What instruction in personal hygiene would you give a school child ten years of age?

May 11th.—Name four of the greatest causes of discomfort to a patient after an abdominal operation. How relieve them?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)