

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 QUESTION FOR THE ARMY COUNCIL.
To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I wonder if your readers who are in war hospitals can give any information in regard to the Secretary of State for War's allowance of £20 additional pay for Sisters after one year's service. I have been in a large war hospital where previous service entitled one to the extra pay on signing for the duration. I preferred to rejoin the Army Reserve, in which I had one and half year's previous service. I was asked to sign for one year, or the duration, and an accompanying paper gave me to understand that I drew the extra pay with the latter. Now I find I still get only £40 a year and the duration paper does not come into force for a year. I do not think our late War Secretary meant this, but I suppose we cannot appeal as members of the Army Service. I doubt the Nation's Fund for Nurses will be needed if this is a general practice. I refused a good post as Sister in a Red Cross hospital, where the salary was much higher, under the impression that I was secure of the advanced pay. There are others here in the same position, and as we nearly all left the Service because we were not allowed transfers it is rather unjust. I had to go home, as I was too far away to be of use at the time to my mother, who was not well.

I am, Madam,

Yours faithfully

"OLD-TIMER."

LEICESTER LEAGUE AND THE NURSES' REGISTRATION BILLS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Knowing the good intentions of Miss Pell-Smith in all relations of life, I regret to have to reply to her letter in your last issue, but it appears to be entirely irrelevant. In neither of my former letters did I refer to Miss Vincent's personal attitude to the members of the League; no doubt she is all that is courteous and considerate to visitors—indeed, I hear she is very sweet and kind. That was not my reason for writing to THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING; it was a matter of far greater importance to the League and incidentally to the profession at large, and to save space I refer your readers to my letters which appeared on April 20th and May 11th. My contention is that the Bill drafted by the Central Committee and supported by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, on the Executive Committee of which the Leicester League has been ably represented by Miss Pell-Smith, is based on sound professional principles,

calculated to conserve the rights and independence of the Nursing Profession as a whole; and if we are to be deprived of our representative (or cease to be affiliated to the Society as Miss Vincent suggested) we should cease "to support our own Bill." This cannot be denied.

So long as Miss Vincent is on the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., she is in part responsible for its policy, and for the Bills it has drafted—a policy which has been *officially* acclaimed by the authorities of the Leicester Infirmary at a recent meeting, without an expression of opinion from those members of the League who object to it, being invited. If our trained nurses' Leagues are, like the chameleon to change their colour, according to the opinion of successive matrons, then, in my opinion, they become a danger to the class of which they are organized—the certificated members of the School—and it becomes a question whether they are not calculated to do more harm than good. How one longs for the freedom of conscience and action which is apparently the breath of the nostrils of our colleagues from overseas, and which is so jealously suppressed in this country by bureaucracy.

Yours very truly,

A MEMBER OF THE LEICESTER LEAGUE.

NEWSPAPER RATIONING BEGINS
JUNE 24th.

Owing to the prohibition of newsagents returning unsold supplies, newspapers will only be obtainable where previously ordered.

To ensure getting your copy of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, price 2d. weekly, register your name at once with your newsagent, or order it at 431, Oxford Street, London, post free, price 10s. 10d. annually.

NOTICES.

The Editor has heretofore replied to letters from readers on questions of contract, business, and professional affairs. Her correspondence has now so increased that for the future she will reply in the JOURNAL only.

Many Matrons and nurses will be glad to know that the National Union of Trained Nurses, 46, Marsham Street, S.W. 1, has re-opened its Nurses' Employment Bureau.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

June 29th.—State what you know about acute malignant glanders in man.

July 6th.—What is a parasite? What external parasites attack man? Describe in detail the treatment and management of a case of scabies with special reference to the prevention of the spread of the disease.

We regret we are unable to award a prize this week.

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