

## 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.*

## REVIEWED BY AN EXPERT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I should like to thank you for the splendid review which you gave my book, "A Complete System of Nursing," in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of January 12th. It is rarely one sees a review on a nursing book made so interesting or commented upon in such a systematic manner; it seems to be an art which few reviewers of nursing books possess, possibly because they are not always members of the nursing profession.

Yours faithfully,

A. MILLICENT ASHDOWN.

10, Well Walk,  
Hampstead, N.W. 3.

[THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is the only weekly journal in this country edited and controlled by trained nurses; its expert reviewer of professional works is, therefore, qualified for the responsibility entrusted to her. Miss Ashdown's "A Complete System of Nursing" should prove of the utmost use to nurses, trained and in training.—ED.]

## QUEENS ABOVE CONTROVERSY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am home on leave, and stood in amazement for quite a time before No. 21, Old Bond Street, a few days ago. To come home to "Blighty" after two years' war nursing, and to find our profession held up as an army of beggars made one furious. There, staring one in the face, are hideous coloured appeals for charity upon our behalf—and the names of Queen Mary and even of Queen Alexandra, the President of our most honourable military nursing services, stuck on the window in great red letters. Surely, these ladies must realise how the best type of military Sister hates to see this outrageous appeal for money for herself, when she knows of the horrible suffering and starvation of poor people in so many parts of the world. It is a great shame these actresses are permitted to degrade us in public estimation, and that they are permitted to use the names of the Queens to push their advertising scheme. Surely, the names of Queen Mary and Queen Alexandra should be kept out of this controversy and not used against us. It is not a time to give us wage-earners the impression that Royalty is on the side of titled people and *nouveaux riches*. Has Viscountess Cowdray the permission of the Queens to use their names in this "Nation's Fund for Nurses" appeal? If not, the sooner the blazing red letters are removed from the window of 21, Old Bond Street, the better. The names of

their Majesties should be carefully kept out of this offensive appeal, which so many of us bitterly resent.

Yours sincerely, SISTER, T.F.N.S.

## IS THIS PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OR EXPLOITATION?

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have been working for two years in a general hospital, and our Matron, who has let me do staff nurse's work for a year past under the Sister, thinks I have so much aptitude for nursing that she has offered to give me the certificate of the hospital if I sign on for two more years instead of one.

I really do feel happy nursing, and as I have done a domestic course, cooking, cleaning and dressmaking, before I began as a V.A.D., I am useful. But what strikes me as unsatisfactory in this arrangement is, that for the past two years I have not been systematically taught the theory of nursing, nor had to prepare for and pass any examinations. Surely if we V.A.D.s are to give four years' work we ought to go through some theoretical courses, or otherwise we shall not be trained. Matron is most kind, but does not seem to approve of much "book" nursing, and says if one has a turn for nursing, and has the right character, that is much more important. I am not so sure. Perhaps other V.A.D.s will say what they think, and what has been their experience?

Yours sincerely,

A WOULD-BE EFFICIENT NURSE.

## REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*School Nurse*.—Yes, as the majority of School Nurses live in rooms, they will have Votes when thirty years of age, and you will thus become known in your district to prospective members of Parliament, and will no doubt be able to enlighten them on health questions, and incidentally prove by submitting a weekly budget, how difficult it is to live in decency on your present salary. This huge charity scheme, the "Nation's Fund for Nurses," launched by the College of Nursing and wealthy patrons, cuts at the very roots of sound, self-respecting, economic conditions for trained nurses. To sweat and starve a body of workers under the cloak of charity, and then to thrust charity upon them spells subordination. The worker should determinedly resist the patronage of persons who appeal to the public for the money wherewith to prosecute their benefactions!

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

## QUESTIONS.

*February 9th*.—Give the most pathetic, and the most amusing, true stories you have heard in connection with the war.

*February 16th*.—What are some grave complications to be watched for after an extensive burn?

*February 23rd*.—Define thrombosis and the details of nursing required.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)