

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.

CERTIFICATE OF EXISTENCE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—As one who has from time to time vouched for the existence of annuitants of the R.N.P.F.N., as well as witnessed the signature on receipt, I am at a loss to know why the receipt had to be returned to the office before the dispatch of cheque. Should not the endorsement of cheque to order satisfy the actuaries and protect the fund, besides being businesslike, even in transactions with women struggling to live for the remainder of their days on a small income? Postage counts, particularly in these days when a bonus is missed.

Yours truly,

CLARA LEE.

Letchworth.

NURSERY SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Mr. H. A. L. Fisher, at the opening of the Summer School for Teachers of Young Children at the Westfield College, Hampstead, in referring to the Nursery School, said this opens the way for "free voluntary experiment," and, it seems, he desires "suggestions and offers from people especially interested."

As a nurse who wishes her profession to take a definite form, and to command the same respect and similar remuneration from the Government and other employers as, for instance, the teaching profession, I object to the proposition that we should offer ideas founded upon our knowledge and training to authorities who did not heed our claims that this knowledge and training was essential to the success of the scheme. In my opinion the time has gone by for impressing the Ministry of Education with our views. The Nursery Schools are to be schools. Well, so be it.

Why should our services always be regarded as something to be had for mere asking?

Because we have hitherto placed such little value on them ourselves.

However, I am happy to say that there is to be plenty of scope for the ideas of nurses in their own recognised sphere, by the spurt given to the day nursery with the passing of the Child Welfare Bill.

Let our best nurses interest themselves more in the development of public health work, and take their proper place in it, and we will prove that our services are worth true recognition, and are no longer to be classed with voluntary efforts and benevolent societies. Then, indeed, will nursing rank with other professions and be able to claim its dues.

Yours faithfully,

Mosside, M/C.

THERESA MCGRATH.

THE HOSPITAL LAUNDRY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was glad to see in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING last week an article on "The Hospital Laundry," for in my experience the subject is one concerning which the knowledge of most nurses is sadly deficient. Yet, whether we consider it from the point of view of the nurse who is often recklessly lavish of clean linen, both in hospitals and private houses, of the Sister who is personally responsible for the correctness and good order of the supplies of her ward linen, or the Matron who should know approximately the average number of articles required to supply a given ward, the number which should be sent to the wash, and the amount of labour and materials needed to cope with them, the question of the laundry is all-important. Linen may be damaged or ruined, and expenditure in regard to the laundry be greatly in excess of what is necessary, if an expert and vigilant eye is not kept on all these departments. Added to this, most careful checking is needed when the clean linen is returned, or articles may disappear and not be forthcoming when stock-taking time draws on. Incidentally I may mention that this worry is minimised if the laundry is on the premises, as much closer supervision is possible.

Another advantage is that nurses in their fourth year can act as assistant to the Home Sister, or Assistant Matron, who arranges and controls the work of the laundry. This makes for smooth working in the hospital concerned, and the experience is invaluable to the nurse subsequently if she applies for an administrative post. For such a post high certificates in nursing, indispensable as they are, are only part of her equipment. Housekeeping experience, a knowledge of food values, and of the management of a laundry, also count for much, for she may have to supervise and control both these departments.

I am, Dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,

SUPERINTENDENT.

A CHANGE NEEDED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—If nurses are run down through length of service in an enervating climate, they should have medical advice, and it should be followed. I may point out, however, that the climate of India differs widely, and that a visit to the hills would in most cases meet the needs of the situation. There are many places where the climate is as temperate and invigorating as that of the Homeland.

Yours truly,

ANGLO-INDIAN.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

August 31st.—Mention some of the principal disorders of the nervous system, and the duties of the nurse in regard to them.

September 7th.—What are the principal functions of a School Nurse? How may she assist in raising the standard of national health?

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