

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.

AN INTERESTING COMPARISON.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have been reading the most excellent and sensible letter in your issue of this week, under the heading of "An Interesting Comparison," and am now writing to take the liberty of suggesting that it should be sent for publication to the *Times*; for in a general daily paper it would necessarily come to the notice of a larger number of readers than in a nursing paper. It deals with such a very important point that it is a pity it should not come before as large a number of people as possible.

Apologising for troubling you,

Believe me,

Yours very faithfully,

IRENE B. CUNNINGHAM.

Christchurch, Hants.

[We have advised the writer of the letter referred to to communicate with the *Times*.—ED.]

THE INFLUENCE OF COLOUR.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was extremely interested in the article on "The Influence of Colour" in last week's BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, for I am quite sure that colour has a great effect on patients, though all may not be conscious of it. Most nurses, in this country, recognise it by the pains they take to obtain flowers for their wards, and the brightness and homeliness of our wards are much commented upon by visitors from abroad. The patients also appreciate the floral decorations, and so do their friends, for there are few who do not bring some flowers on a visiting day, while a former patient paying a visit to the ward will not unfrequently bring a flowering plant. So great indeed is the demand for flowers that on visiting days flower-sellers stand with their baskets outside the gates of hospitals and do a flourishing trade.

On the other hand very little consideration is given to the colour scheme for the decoration of hospital wards, and I do not think there will be much progress in this direction until we have women on hospital boards. Even the colour of the walls, if unobjectionable in itself, may clash with the colour scheme of quilts and screens and be a source of irritation and discomfort to a patient with an eye sensitive to colour harmonies.

Of the influence of colour from the therapeutic standpoint I, with I fancy most nurses, am very ignorant, but I can imagine it would be a fascinating study, and one that one might pursue with pleasure to oneself, and profit to one's patients. Perhaps the Journal will some day tell us more about it.

Yours faithfully,

A COLOUR LOVER.

THE ROYAL NATIONAL PENSION FUND FOR NURSES.

A CERTIFICATE OF EXISTENCE.

We have received a letter from Miss Christina Forrest, in reference to her last communication published in our issue of August 17th, desiring to have it made quite plain that, according to the letter of the Secretary of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses, which she quoted, it was September, 1919, and not this month, that it might be necessary to ask the policy holders for another certificate of existence.

The Royal National Pension Fund is an Insurance Society—and not a Pension Society—for which policy holders pay business prices. There is no reason, therefore, why they should claim to be exempt from business methods. We have always said, and shall still continue to hold the same opinion, that the title of the Society is misleading to the community.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Army Reserve Sister writes:—"Many of us have come to the conclusion that government by Matrons is not to our interest. We Reserve Sisters have to sign the 'Serf clause' before we are eligible for a rise of salary and bonus, the Matrons on the Army Nursing Board agreed to it. Then the Matrons on the College Council have agreed to its penalising Constitution—to special facilities for the London Hospital sweating system, and to preference for V.A.D.s in Q.A.I.M.N.S. Also in the last draft of the College Bill the whole fabric of the three years' general training is undermined by the new Clause 4, providing for the setting up of Registers of Specialists, who of course can compete 'as registered nurses' with the thoroughly trained. Seems to me the Matrons have betrayed our interests all along the line."

[Having closely watched for the past two years the conduct of business by the College Council we regretfully agree with the opinion that either through arrogance, ignorance or incapacity it has failed to protect the interests of the nursing profession; but the nurse members of the College who join the institution without reading the constitution, and who permit rules and Registration Bills to be drafted without their being consulted, are just as much to blame, and their betrayal of the interests of their colleagues is equally reprehensible.—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

September 21st.—What is the function of the blood? Why may hæmorrhage cause death?

September 28th.—How would you recognize perforation in a case of enteric fever? What immediate action would you take, and how could you temporarily relieve the patient?

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