

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.

CONGRATULATIONS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,—We beg to convey to you the congratulations of the Royal British Nurses' Association on the completion of your twenty-five years as Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and to express the hope that before long the movement, of which it has been the earliest and leading literary protagonist, may be crowned with success by the passage of a Bill for State Registration, just to the nurses and calculated to foster and develop the Profession of Nursing.

We are,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) C. E. THOMSON,
HERBERT J. PATERSON,
Hon. Secretaries.

Royal British Nurses' Association,
10, Orchard Street,
Portman Square, W. 1.

UNJUSTIFIABLE PRESSURE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Al you have prophesied is coming to pass, and unless we obey orders and join the College we are made to realise "a chill."

I am a Guy's nurse and received the letter from the Matrons you allude to last week. The pressure I care nothing about, because after the manner trained nurses have been treated by the Red Cross nothing would induce me to join the College; but it is shameful that four Matrons should sign their names to the document I received. These ladies foot a statement which is, in plain English, a lie. It is printed as the first reason why nurses should join the College:—

1. Because the Council of the College of Nursing has drafted a "Nurses' Registration Bill" [seven Bills—the last more dangerous to the personal and professional liberty of the Nursing profession than its predecessors.—ED.]—which provides that the Register already formed by the College of Nursing shall be the first Register under the Act. *If, therefore, you are on the College Register you will, automatically and without further fee, be placed upon the State Register when the "Nurses' Registration Bill" is passed.* I have italicised the words I consider a misleading lie.

Parliament has not dealt with this Bill, nor agreed to a College monopoly and is not likely to grant it.

But thousands of pounds have been taken from nurses by the College Council on this statement. In my opinion it is high time a public meeting was held to expose such indefensible tactics.

Nurses are very ignorant; they believe statements made by persons in authority over them. The four Matrons ought to be made to refund every guinea paid by Guy's nurses. Who are they to pledge Parliament? I would use much stronger language, only the last thing our Law Courts allow outside their sacred precincts is "the truth, and nothing but the truth."

A MEMBER OF GUY'S NURSES' LEAGUE.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

"Old-Fashioned Hospital Nurse" says:—"All the medical staff, especially the juniors, are 'chortling in their joy' that women medical students have been kept out, when so many other London hospitals are admitting them. At dinner, sad to say, this point of view was thoroughly applauded by the nurses. Many of them have worked with women medicos and say they have absolutely no knowledge of nursing etiquette and never observe it. They all think and act as if they were doctors plus nurses. This is sad."

"District Nurse" writes:—"After the war the millennium! According to the *Leicester Post* the Government ought to shoulder a little of the burden of seeing that the nurses it will have no further use for shall have a good chance of maintaining themselves in comfort after their war duties are over.

"Very nice for the nurses who all rushed to the front trained and untrained, but how about us who have stayed behind 'in the dull,' often doing two women's work so that the poor should not suffer? Are we to pay the rates and taxes to make it possible for these ladies to live in luxury? It is time now to consider the future. Of course, the State should give generous pensions if nurses cannot work; and when district nursing is a State service, we shall be pensioned when we have earned it, too."

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. C. *Sadler*.—The address of the Central Midwives Board is Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, S.W. 1. The address has been in the Journal in the advertisement of the Board's Examinations, which appears the first week in the month.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

October 5th.—How does puerperal septicaemia arise? Describe the course and management of the disease.

October 12th.—What is rabies? How is it treated and nursed?

October 19th.—Give instructions for making Antivermin Underclothing for the troops; also for disinfecting soldiers' clothing at the Front.

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Do not omit to buy, as far as possible, everything you need from "Our Advertisers," and to recommend them to your friends. They are all first-class firms.

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