

## 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.*

## WHY NOT STOP THE SALE OF THIS MISLEADING BADGE?

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The attention of the Council of the Nightingale Fund has been drawn to the fact that a trading association has been selling a badge which they call the "Nightingale Badge," and the Council feel, therefore, that they ought to explain that the selling of this badge is not authorised by them, and that its possession does not imply that the owner has received a training at the Nightingale School.

It would appear that the badge can be purchased by any nurse, or indeed anyone, if she wishes.

My Council, therefore, feel it right to make this explanation and disclaimer in response to requests that have come to them from influential quarters in the nursing world, and they will be much obliged if you will give it as wide publicity as possible.

I am, dear Madam,  
Yours faithfully,  
W. H. BONHAM-CARTER,  
Secretary of the Nightingale Training School.

[It will be remembered that a correspondent drew public notice to this matter in this Journal a few weeks ago. At the request of the Matron of St. Thomas' Hospital we placed further information at her disposal, and congratulate the Committee of the Nightingale School for Nurses on disclaiming responsibility for this "Nightingale Badge." For the protection of "Nightingales" we suggest the Committee should take steps to prevent the sale of this "badge," which any person trained or not can buy, and wear. It is calculated to mislead the public.—ED.]

## HUMILIATING HUMBUG.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I wonder how much deeper of the cup of humiliation the nursing profession will have to drink—to the very dregs? I happened to walk into Waring & Gillow's shop the other day, where I saw a most extraordinary entertainment in progress. Miss Elizabeth Asquith was exhibiting a wax doll, which she informed me represented Queen Alexandra in her wedding dress. Upon further questioning, I learned that this toy was to be raffled for "The Nation's Fund for Nurses," so called. I gave her to understand very clearly that self-respecting nurses resented being held up as objects of charity. I further informed her that the only thing we did want was what her father—when Prime Minister—had had the power to give us, and had refused, namely,

State Registration; and that what we did *not* want was that she should patronize the nurses in such an insulting way as to invite raffling (gambling is the most honest term) over a wax doll to obtain charity money for trained nurses. What has Miss Asquith to do with the Nursing Profession I should much like to know. Instead of this unjustifiable interference, she would be better employed doing some work of national importance, and this I told her as a parting word of advice. Where is the *esprit de corps* among nurses if they can tolerate this ignoble treatment of what is often called by those who delight to humiliate it—"a noble profession"?

Yours indignantly,

BEATRICE KENT.

P.S.—I am in perfect sympathy and agreement with Henrietta Hawkins in the views she expresses about the work which the splendid official report of the work of the Society for State Registration represents, and I enclose a donation towards the expenses with the greatest pleasure and gratitude.

[Appreciation, as well as financial support for a just Bill, is most welcome.—ED.]

## A QUESTION OF IMPORTANCE TO MENTAL NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was much interested in Captain Kirkland-Whittaker's remarks at the Annual Meeting of the Asylum Workers' Association (*The Asylum News*, p. 18) on the promotion of mental nurses to the posts of Assistant Matron and Matron, and from the applause they received it would appear that the sentiments were approved of by the whole meeting. It is interesting to record that he repeats in England the views which were expressed in Scotland by Dr. Yellowlees, of Gartnavel (the Father of the Medico-Psychological Association), so long ago as 1898. While agreeing with Captain Kirkland-Whittaker that the matron of an Asylum ought to be fully qualified in her profession, and hold both the Certificates of Hospital Nursing and of Proficiency in Mental Nursing, he thought the best matrons were those who had first been mental nurses and had subsequently completed their training in the wards of a General Hospital. The Asylum, he eloquently said, was their "first love," and their interest in work of this kind of institution would be greater.

Dr. Yellowlees' remarks were made during a discussion on the training of hospital nurses in mental work for the purpose of fitting them to become matrons of Asylums. A considerable number since 1880 had been appointed matrons of Asylums in Scotland, and, owing to their want of training, with indifferent success in many cases. I thought this defect should be rectified, and I induced the first hospital nurses to enter the wards of an Asylum in the year 1896. The prestige of the Asylum service was then so low that it took nearly a year before I could get a single candidate. Two others came shortly afterwards. All three became matrons of Asylums within three years, and after

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