

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.

RENDER TO CÆSAR, &c.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have to thank one of your correspondents for a most gratifying reference to the work done at the North Islington Maternity Centre, in your issue of July 6th.

In justice to the founder and other pioneer workers to whom the credit of the success is really due, I feel compelled to rectify the mis-statement in connection with the Infant Welfare Ward, which is not under my charge. The whole department, which is re-opening on the 24th on an enlarged scale, will have a complete residential staff, and the late Superintendent of the North Islington Maternity Centre has been appointed Matron of the American Infant Welfare Wards, by which title it will be known in future.

The work of the wards will be of immense benefit to the residents of this district who attend our Centre, and we workers hope to co-operate most cordially for the general good of Welfare Work.

Yours sincerely,

G. LE GEYT,
6, Manor Gardens, Superintendent.
Holloway Road, N. 1.

WANT OF CONSIDERATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—A couple of weeks ago THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING reported that Major Chapple recently asked in the House of Commons whether any advance had been made in the mess allowance to nurses to meet the increased cost of food. To this it was possible to answer truthfully in the affirmative, but is it not time that the Government increased their nurses' uniform allowance, which remains still at the pre-war figure of £8 per annum, in spite of the fact that all materials and also dressmaking cost almost twice as much as at the beginning of the war? And does there exist anywhere in this country a class of employment where salaries have not been largely advanced to meet the enormous increase in the cost of living? Yet the Government has not raised by one penny the salaries of its nurses, except to those who sign a contract for the duration of war, and the many women who, on account of home and other responsibilities, are unable to agree to such a contract must continue to struggle along with an income which in pre-war days was hardly sufficient.

I shall be grateful if you will give publicity to this letter, as I know there are many members of the Army Nursing Service who feel strongly the want of consideration shown to them in these matters. I enclose my card and remain,

AN ARMY SISTER.

A VEXATIOUS ARRANGEMENT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I should be very glad if any of your readers could enlighten me as to the following point. All nurses who have joined the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses, and getting an annuity, have, as you know, every month to send a doctor's certificate and a clergyman's certificate. This, surely, especially for nurses living in a country district, is a little humiliating as it means that their business is more or less known. Is there any obscure reason for the multiplication of these signatures, for it surely is a waste of time for the clergyman and doctor—though that is not my point. My point is, that surely every nurse getting a pension naturally feels she would like to keep her affairs private, and the getting signatures every month seems to me an unnecessary bringing to light of her own business.

If you could find space in your valuable paper for my letter I should be very grateful.

Yours truly,

M. SHEPHERD,

Trained Nurse, C.M.B. Cert.

[This system is surely annoying, especially as nurses insured in the N.P.F.N. have paid in full for their annuities, which are not pensions.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

From a Sister in France:—"For the first time I have seen 'A History of Nursing' (Nutting & Dock). What a mine of wealth to explore! Why did I never hear of this greatest of educational works in my training school (Guys)?"

[Because our training-schools have hitherto been too narrow in their outlook to teach nursing history, and, incidentally, because you have not read a professional Journal—THE B.J.N. !—which keeps you in touch with professional affairs.—ED.]

From a Sister in Savoy.—"We follow with interest the professional struggle in the B.J.N. . . . It seems incredible that outsiders should consider themselves capable of directing our profession. What would some of our interfering friends think if we offered to stage manage some of their productions. Our profession is indeed fortunate in having you at its head to fight its battles, otherwise without your leadership I do not know where we should be landed."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

We regret that no prize competition has this week been received which comes up to the standard which justifies us in awarding a prize. No doubt all nurses are just now very busy, and those who are not working at full pressure are taking a well-earned rest.

QUESTIONS.

August 10th.—What have you learnt of new nursing methods in a Military Hospital?

August 17th.—What is pernicious anæmia? How have you seen it treated?

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