

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.

THE SPLENDID FEW.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have just seen the article in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, entitled "Tails Up," and should like to add a few words of great appreciation of all that the Journal and its Editor and workers have done for the nursing profession. I feel convinced that had it not been for the splendid work and courage of these ladies, that by this time the whole profession of nursing would have been completely swamped by gilded and gifted amateurs; and when we do win through, we shall owe our victory to the "Splendid Few" who have kept the flag flying.

I remain, yours, &c.,

E. M. CANCELLOR.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Sister S. N. writes: "I see suggestions being made that a nurse's training should be extended to five years in order to give her time to take in the various branches, midwifery, massage, &c., and a comparison being made between the nurses' training and the doctors', which may be done in a way in five years. People seem to forget that the young student of medicine has comparatively very little physical work to do whilst studying, whereas the nurse all through her training is running about from early morning till quite late in the evening, and doing her studying in her off-duty time, and that the modern nurse has quite a considerable amount of scientific study to get through. A five years' course could only be instituted after reform in hours, and holidays, and food in hospitals. How interesting it will be to see what has evolved from the present muddle five years hence!"

"Certified Midwife" writes:—"I am a certified midwife and fully trained nurse, and agree with Miss Breay's opinion expressed in an article in *The Midwife* that it is not worth while to practice. Why are doctors allowed to choose inspectors for their youth and pleasing appearance? Why are Society women and others with Red Cross training allowed to work Welfare Centres? There must be nurses returning from the war. I should have been glad to do Red Cross work during the War, but was told by a Commandant that I must hold a Red Cross certificate to be given work in the district hospitals. It is time the Government reformed the Red Cross Society. Most of their members have wealth, social position, and Red Cross; they might give poor nurses a chance to live. We spent years in training, and for many years of our lives have striven to help to build up the health of the Empire before the War.

There should be compensation for such loss from the Government."

Late Sister, St. Bartholomew's Hospital: "May I suggest to fellow readers of the *B.J.N.* to carefully read the letter signed "Henrietta Hawkins" in issue of Feb. 15th; and if they realize the danger to efficient nursing standards if Supplementary Registers are set up by Parliament, as provided for in the College Bill, that they write a post-card to their Member of Parliament, headed "Nurses' Registration: Please vote against College of Nursing Bill; its scheme for Supplementary Registers cuts at the root of efficient nursing and is injurious to the public. Please support Central Committee's Bill, which protects nursing efficiency for the benefit of the public through the one portal system.' Cease grumbling; act. 'You ain't got time to sit down and cry,' as the old negro song says."

Progressive Person writes: "I note 'brass hats' and 'silk hats' and other able-bodied big-wigs whirling about to their duties in delightful cars, provided by the State, and I also observe our district nurses tramping from case to case in all weathers. Why does not someone start a fund for 'autos' for district nurses to be used on their rounds (and just occasionally for joy rides); they would soon learn to drive them. Imagine the saving of time, nerves, and shoe leather."

[This is a practical suggestion.—ED.]

Professional Nurse: "May I ask when Public Health Nursing, especially all the well-paid posts, and Army Nursing ear-marked for V.A.D.s, and Private Nursing farmed out by the Training Schools, and other trifles have been disposed of, where the professional nurse comes in, when her four years' hospital drudgery is over?"

[This is becoming a poser. State Registration, recognising a defined standard of nursing education and efficiency, would settle it. Down would go the price of shoddy.—ED.]

"Don't Want to be a Pauper" writes:—"Can you tell me what Lady Cowdray's 'London to Berlin' Pennies Collection for Nurses is? I have been asked to apply for a collecting-box or book, or join the pennies collection. Another demoralising scheme to lower trained nurses in public estimation, I suppose."

[Just so. Any cadging scheme is considered good enough by their patrons for the "hireling" nurse. But why not a farthing contribution instead of the lordly penny!? We note that a dignified endowment protects the *amour propre* of the V.A.D.—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

March 1st.—Have you ever seen a ghost? If so, give your experience accurately, or repeat the experience of others upon whose accuracy you can rely.

March 8th.—What are the duties of the nurse in caring for a case of influenzal pneumonia? What precautions should she take for her own protection?

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