

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.

A DEPUTATION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—We are much obliged to you for all the interest you have shown in the demobilization of the Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. Some of us would be quite glad to join a deputation to the Secretary of State for War if Miss Paterson would lead it as you suggested.

We are thoroughly disgusted with the attitude taken by the *Nursing Mirror* and the *Hospital*; but as they are only lay press, we suppose we should not have expected anything else from them. The War Office statement that we have ranked as officers has caused great amusement. Our pay, gratuities and decorations are proofs positive that we have not. What about the Military Medal? They must have made a mistake and meant our Colonial Sisters, who received both pay and rank. Had we been treated the same, we would have been in a position to be demobilized at forty-eight hours' notice.

By the comments in some of the papers we could almost believe we had asked for charity. All we want is a living wage and fair treatment—not the proceeds of Victory Balls, &c.

We are, Madam,

Yours truly,

Members of Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor's post-box has been crammed during the past week by every delivery, proving the widespread interest in the Nurses' Bill, and the wave of joy its success in the House occasioned throughout the United Kingdom amongst nurses and their friends. We quote from a few letters as far as space permits.

A member of the R.B.N.A. writes: "We are very anxious that our Secretary, Miss Isabel Macdonald, should know how much we love her and appreciate her efforts. She has worked early and late for us, and for the State Registration cause. Please let her know through the JOURNAL how greatly we appreciate all she has done towards the wonderful success of our Bill."

"An Old Contemptible": "How glorious! I have put my paper of 29th March away with my most precious possessions. Had all our years of work and self-sacrifice been thrown away—and the College Bill taken precedence of ours—I could never again have believed in the existence of Justice."

A State Registration Matron for Thirty Years: "Thank God it was our Bill."

A State Registration Doctor: "I take off my hat to you."

A State Registration Staff: "We can hardly believe the joyful news—so many years of hope deferred."

A Sister: "I felt quite a different person after those speeches, and the Second Reading of the Bill—so uplifted."

Another Sister: "I would not have missed being in the House on Friday for £100—the doctors did us proud."

A Staff Nurse: "A little praise does make one feel happy—I shall never forget the generous meed of praise rendered to our work by Sir Watson Cheyne, and the other medical Members in the House. When may we come and lobby again? We all enjoyed ourselves so thoroughly."

A Member of Bart's League: "I think our Treasurer was a little taken back to see a flock of Bart's nurses 'on their own' in the Lobby—sign of the times!"

R.B.N.A., 1888: "At last! So pleased to see you and others of my date still in the forefront of this great reform. Alas! many old friends have passed away before this splendid result of a lifetime of work has received its reward. It is a lesson to stand firmly for principles."

One of the "Insignificant Minority": "Great jewels are packed in little parcels."

Grey in the Cause: "Am all for the burying of war hatchets—now that that sturdy old Registration tree seems firmly rooted."

A London Hospital Nurse: "Many, many thanks, in fact, a thousand thanks for your splendid article of last week for a few improvements for us at the London Hospital. It is quite time we were set free, and also brought up to date."

Mrs. M. H. Greenwood: "What a moment for you when the Second Reading of the Bill passed the House of Commons unanimously. I was in the Ladies Gallery, and my heart went out to you all at the thought of what you must be feeling after so long and so brave a struggle."

"From the Ladies' Gallery": "It was a novel and moving sight to see the Ladies' Gallery, and the Members' Gallery so crowded with earnest nurses when their Bill was under discussion. The uniforms were very decorative, and where not worn, new hats were evidently the order of the day."

Dozens of Nurses: "Let us know what we are to do next—we all want to give a helping hand."

Irish Nurse: "I am just dancing an Irish jig all the time, even in my sleep."

A Sincere Friend of Nurses: "It seems as if Justice has at last taken off her blinkers."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

April 5th.—State some causes of Insomnia. How would you relieve it?

April 12th.—How would you improve the care and observation of the parturient woman?

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