

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 RED LETTER DAY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—THE BRITISH JOURNALS OF NURSING—these last two weeks are treasures! What joy they brought to my heart! To you we owe all! Your name is sacred for all time. What a day for you and all those who so loyally and faithfully helped you these long, weary years—the day of the Second Reading of the Bill! How I should have loved to have seen you!

So many thoughts, so many wishes, so many emotions, so many remembrances come to me at once that I am powerless to express anything! Only just I want to say. I am grateful to you—you are bringing us to light and freedom in our sacred calling!

A GRATEFUL IRISH NURSE SERVING IN FRANCE.

A SANATORIUM FOR NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—We are all very grateful indeed to you for taking up the question of the sanatorium for nurses, which is badly needed. Four additional nurses have recently arrived here, bringing the percentage of nurses in the total number of women patients up to just under 23 per cent. In the other sanatoria, of which I have been hearing, the percentage recently was 14 per cent. I am sure that it has never been realised generally that the percentage was so great, and I cannot help feeling that Matrons and Sisters-in-Charge of sanatoria, who *must* have noticed it, have let a great opportunity go past, and have failed in their duty to their professional sisters in not drawing attention to it. Who knows if such knowledge would not have hastened the reforms in hours of work.

I feel rather afraid that you will get tired of hearing about sanatorium life, and of having letters on the subject from tuberculous nurses; but they are all so pathetically enthusiastic about the scheme and so anxious to do something to help it on, that I cannot help encouraging them to write to you.

Yours truly,
A NURSE PATIENT.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

A Sister writes:—"At a sanatorium at which I was a patient, the toilet arrangements left much to be desired. A 'chamber' was allowed for the night, by request; it had to be kept in the locker with one's clothes by day, or I had to promenade the whole length of the cold corridor, or to attend to it each morning. There were only three lavatory basins and a tap for the ablutions of fifty women—absolutely no privacy. What

was worse still was the fact that the bed quilt and blankets were not disinfected after each patient. I arrived at 11 a.m. and my bed had been made up with the same quilt and blankets the last patient had used. This patient had been transferred to an incurable home that very morning! Everyone was very kind to me."

"Sister Mary" writes:—"We are such a callous people in many ways—we often lack the inspiration of 'righteous indignation.' I am moved to make this remark owing to the fact that on reading in the B. J. N. that a public funeral had been proposed for the martyred Edith Cavell, a quite well-to-do patient said, 'Who is Edith Cavell?' You would hardly credit it, but it is true. So by all means let the nation show some recognition of their appreciation for her patriotism, so that the 'stay at homes' may know the nation produces such heroines."

Red Cross Nurse:—"I joined the College because of the pledge—leaflets containing it were given away at 83, Pall Mall, so the Red Cross Society is partly to blame for misleading its nurses."

"Outraged Sister":—"I have written to the Duchess of Devonshire protesting against the wall outside Devonshire House being plastered with charity appeals for nurses. I feel a pauper every time I pass along Piccadilly. When we have a General Nursing Council, will it be able to prevent such an outrage?"

A Superintendent of Nurses writes:—"If by any chance the College Bill had pushed itself through (perish the thought!), I think we had better all have sailed for America. I never wanted to go there before, but since President Wilson came across and spoke for humanity, it seems to me I feel as though it would be a tremendous thing to go and see the place that the Pilgrim Fathers built for themselves, and thought for themselves. One has realised so keenly these last few years what it means to be denied these fundamental principles, and how right they were to 'shake the dust from off their feet.'"

[Much better stay at home and help to save our country, and build up our profession, through the Registration Act when we get it; although nothing could possibly be so enlightening as a visit to America. We found our three visits to the United States more stimulating than any other influence in life.—Ed.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

April 26th.—How would you care for beds, bedding, blankets, rubber sheeting and ward linen, to keep them economically hygienic when in hospital use?

May 3rd.—What is Rabies? Describe the Nursing Treatment.

May 10th.—State what you know about Parasitic Worms of the Intestines. How are they treated?

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