

## 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 MENTAL NURSES' REGISTER.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—I understand that the State Registration Bill, which will soon come into force, excludes the uncertificated nurse.

I have been nursing since 1903, my first experience being one twelvemonth at the County Asylum, Brentwood, and five years at the Earlswood Royal Institution for Mentally Defective Persons; since then have lived at various private asylums as mental nurse, and have held my present post four years next July, 1919. I feel anxious to know how the Bill will affect my future work. I would be very grateful if you can enlighten me on the matter.

I receive £40 annually and wear indoor and outdoor uniform by request.

I am, yours faithfully,

C. J.

[The Bill provides for a Mental Nurses' Register, and for a three years' period of grace, during which time nurses of good character, who satisfy the Council of their professional experience will be eligible for registration. We feel sure that Mental Nurses who, like yourself, have ten years' practical training and experience, and who are still in active work, will meet the standard at first required. After the three years' term of grace no doubt all nurses will have to pass through three years' training and the central examination before registration.—ED.]

## EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Do you not think members of the Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. and T.F.N.S. should send a deputation to the Secretary of State for War to present a protest against the unfair way in which they have been treated in the matter of gratuities, and to demand the same scale of gratuity as that granted to members of the Regular Nursing Service? We have worked as hard as they, and under as trying conditions, and yet in the King's Warrant of May 10th we see their first year's service gratuity is to exceed ours by £20 in the case of staff nurses, and £10 in the case of sisters, and for each subsequent year of war service all ranks of the Q.A.I.M.N.S. are to get just *double* the amount granted to members of the T.F.N.S. and the Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. We feel this is a great injustice, as many of us have left lucrative posts to serve our country in her need. We now have to seek fresh employment, whereas work and pension are assured to the Regulars.

In the Warrant it is stated that "more generous" terms are being granted to "temporary" nurses, but as a matter of fact the increase for those with four years' service or

more is very little, e.g., a sister serving since outbreak of war to present time is entitled to £52 10s. in place of £47 10s., while a matron actually would lose under the new scheme, receiving only £58 in lieu of £60!

Yours faithfully,

"1914 STAR."

[We hope members of Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. and T.F.N.S. will unite to get justice. You have right on your side.—ED.]

## CHEERIO, NURSE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM.—I quite agree with your correspondent that Lady Cowdray's latest publication is nothing short of an insult to the Service, and that the Matrons should take steps to get it withdrawn.

The choice of a frontispiece excels the cover in vulgarity and bad taste.

In Lady Cowdray's mind the nurses are evidently not merely objects of charity, but something less complimentary.

The War Office is strong enough in enforcing its discipline on members of the Service, let it show itself equally courageous in defending their dignity.

ANOTHER ARMY SISTER.

## NO MONOPOLY FOR MALE ACCOUNTANTS IN A NURSES' BILL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM.—During the discussion in Parliament *re* the Nurses Bill, an amendment was proposed which limited the Nurses in their choice of an Accountant.

May I suggest that it is desirable that we should be free to appoint a woman auditor if we so desire; and the effect of this amendment might make this impossible, at least for some years.

The Society of Chartered Accountants has closed its doors to women for as long as possible, and in admitting them at last imposes conditions which debar those women already in practice.

Accountancy, being an eminently suitable profession for women, I hope any such attempts to monopolise it for men may be nipped in the bud, and that nurses will protest against any such restrictions being imposed in the conduct of their business.

Faithfully Yours, (Nurse for 20 years).

W. E. AYRES.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

## QUESTIONS.

May 31st.—What advice would you give, as a midwife, to a patient in danger of losing her flow of milk? Supposing that she is unable to feed her infant, what alternative feeding would you suggest?

June 7th.—What is cystitis? How does it arise? How would you recognize it? What are the principal nursing points?

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