

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.

COERCION IN THE NURSE
TRAINING SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have lately heard that the Matron of our hospital (Guy's) was asked to allow members of the R.B.N.A. and the N.U.T.N. to go to Guy's and speak to the nurses. The reply was "that nurses had plenty to do during their training without being worried with nursing politics." Personally, I feel, as we are grown women, we should be allowed to decide that point for ourselves; but the inconsistency of the contention will strike you when I tell you that I have just finished training, and Miss Hogg, the Matron, was very keen on my joining the College of Nursing.

If we are not to hear about nursing politics while training, we should not be asked to join the College—which I now learn is a lay limited liability Company—when we finish.

I write this to warn other nurses, and I think the public should learn of the pressure put on nurses. If the public subscribe to hospitals they should see we have a right to use our recreation rooms as we wish, and hear whom we wish in them.

Yours truly,
A GUY'S TRAINED NURSE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I read the "leaflet" you gave me on the College of Nursing Constitution. I certainly should not have joined if I had known the Council could remove my name from its Register, without a chance of defending myself. That appears quite unsafe for a poor nurse; and I think my Matron, Miss Crookenden, of Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, should have told us this when urging us to join. What she said was, "You had better join at once, as you will have to join later—and then you will have to pass an examination." As I had just passed an examination and got my certificate of course I did not want to pass another. There was nothing in the Form I signed about being turned out without an appeal; but you know what young nurses are—if the Matron advises them to do things they do them. We really had very little information before us at Cambridge, but we realised we were *meant* to join the College, so we did so. I see now we ought to enquire more about things for others as well as ourselves.

Yours sincerely,
"CERT. ADDENBROOKE'S."

[This statement that an examination will be compulsory for State Registration for certificated practising nurses is one several College Matrons make to their nurses when urging them to join.

It is, and they know it is, untrue. Even the College Bill provides for a three years' term of grace, before nurses must conform to a prescribed curriculum; and as for an examination by the College of Nursing, Ltd., as it is only a voluntary body, its certificate gives no professional status, and to urge nurses to join under any such threat is quite unjustifiable upon the part of any matron.
—ED.]

A PROTEST AGAINST CHARITY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Five M/c. nurses distributed handbills outside the Free Trade Hall last Friday, the 17th inst., whilst "The Victory Ball," in aid of "The Nation's Fund for Nurses," was in progress. The object of the bills was to protest against the whole scheme promoted by the "College of Nursing, Ltd.," which is calculated to keep nurses in subjection.

Crowds of people surrounded the carriages as they lined up at the curb, but where the nurse could not get near enough to open the carriage door and offer a bill to our patrons the people cheerfully assisted. Several men in the crowd asked for further particulars. They likened the Nurses' Union to their own trades union, and *understood*. One man mounted a few steps and called out, "Get hold of these bills and read them and then pass them to the jokers in the carriages!"

Now and then a jarring note was felt. "King Charles the Second" refused even to accept a bill. How unlike that gallant king! The incongruity of it struck one forcibly.

Two other pretty men scowled as soon as they saw the uniform which denotes merely a "trained" nurse at most. Maybe they resented such signs of energy in people chosen for their bountiful though ceremonious charity.

An amusing incident occurred when two V.A.D. nurses appeared on the scene. After refusing to take a bill one of them remarked, "They are not nurses at all; they are just dressed up as nurses." She would know, of course. At least, she seemed to know that such a thing was possible with a "trained" nurse's uniform.

On the whole, great courtesy was shown to the nurses.

Yours faithfully,
THERESA McGRATH,
Hon. Secretary National
Union of Trained Nurses
(Manchester Branch).

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTION.

February 1st.—What do you know of the causes of tetanus in war, of precautions for its prevention, and of its treatment and nursing?

February 8th.—What are the principal results of injuries to the spine? In what classes of cases are operations usually performed? How would you nurse such a case after operation?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)