

## 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 GRIEVANCE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—We quite agree with Miss Ryan that the great inducement held out to us to join the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses was the bonus that was to come to us every five years. This year, with the rise in the cost of living, it is more necessary than ever that the bonus should be paid. We fail to see why it was not given as the donations to it have still continued.

We are, &c.,

TWO ANNUITANTS.

## THE PROFESSIONAL SENSE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was interested and amused at the replies of the "V.A.D.'s" last week on the Nursing Profession. I am also a "V.A.D.," and the reason I would not train as a nurse in England is because of the rude and overbearing attitude of several sisters and nurses I have had to work with. I hope later to train in the United States, where to judge from the American nurses I have had the pleasure to work with abroad, one would be courteously treated. The Americans are well educated and most kind and considerate to subordinates, and inspired with a much stronger professional sense than the English. They don't stand any nonsense where their professional status and duties are concerned; but they do treat one like a human being. Their Chief Nurses are proud of being nurses and represent those of lesser rank in everything. This is as it should be; they are much less autocratic than English matrons and are in consequence better regarded and better served. So to America I go for my training.

Yours truly,

ANOTHER V.A.D.

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

From a Sister, B.E.F., France.—"Now we are having a great time here, its nothing but the 'College of Nursing' being jammed down our throats, and papers being given to us, and papers pinned on our Notice Board, and the Principal Matrons coming and giving lectures on the subject of joining. We are not joining—as we say our Association (R.B.N.A.) is sufficient. Surely our registration with the R.B.N.A will carry us through."

[Of course it will—as a registered member of a Royal Chartered Corporation—no Bill will be passed by Parliament calculated to exclude such trained nurses from State Registration, and if any official, be she even a Principal Matron, states otherwise, she is purposely misleading those

nurses under her direction, to induce them to join and pay a fee to the College, which, as a liability Company, can confer no status whatever on its members. It is high time Sisters and nurses in our military hospitals were protected from this undue coercion by their senior officers. Coercion in Military hospitals is becoming a scandal to which the attention of the Army Council might well be directed.—Ed.]

Welfare Nurse.—"The truth is we Welfare Nurses will all be driven into the Labour Party sooner or later. I am sick of the patronage of the coarse-fibred plutocrats. These women who wallow in wealth made by their men, and who have never earned an honest penny in their lives, are largely responsible for the appalling slum conditions where I work; and now they want to pauperise me. Am glad to see *John Bull* is on their track."

Sister G.—"I enjoyed the College Bill meeting; the nurses spoke up well for themselves. What a change since times past!"

Dublin Sister.—"The Victory Ball was a scandal as exposed in the Courts, the one here was not orderly either, but mercifully was not held in our honour although held where nurses are on duty. The British Red Cross was its excuse."

C. F. T., London.—"We call 'C. B. M.' the Poet Laureate of the *B.J.N.* We are looking forward to her 'Peace Ode' after that lovely 'The Vision' and 'Rachel Weeping.'"

## WHERE TO ADVERTISE.

A Matron of a provincial hospital writes:—"The advertisement I put in your Journal has been so successful that it is not necessary to put it in again. I do not know if it would be possible to credit me for the money paid and let it be used on some future occasion. I did not anticipate being successful the first time."

Miss C. writes:—"In reply to my advertisement in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING I had plenty of applications for the Cairo posts, and selected four candidates with excellent qualifications."

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is the professional organ of the educated Nurse.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

## QUESTIONS.

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?

February 15th.—What are the duties of the nurse at the operation of Caesarian Section? To what points would you give special attention in your subsequent care of mother and child?

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