

## 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.*

## NO NURSES NEED APPLY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

I beg to thank you for kindly sending me a copy of your Journal of January 11th. In the paragraph you insert, "No Nurses Need Apply," may I ask for an explanation of this? On what page of the Constitution and in what words therein is this implied? It will interest me to know the exact meaning of and grounds for saying "No Nurses Need Apply."

GERALDINE BREMNER.

22, Langham Street, W.

The exact meaning of the expression of opinion that "no nurses need apply" for seats on the Council of the College of Nursing is simple. A Council nominated in the first instance entirely of hospital officials is in possession. The constitution provides for an annual election of one third of this Council. All the nominated members of the Council stood for election. Nurses are at liberty to nominate independent members of the profession, but they have to wrench the seats from the nominees in possession. Unless the Register of Voters is in print and procurable (which it should be, but is not), any election is a farce, because the voters cannot communicate with the constituency, as the officials, honorary and otherwise, can do. Moreover, how is a poor nurse to fight a contested election under such conditions? She has neither the time to do so nor the money. Such a contest requires: 1, Names and addresses of electors; 2, organisation; 3, no nominee in possession. On the first list of candidates for election by the nurse members of the College the names of some 100 nurses were sent out—quite a number nominated independently—and not from the inner ring. Not one independent member of the profession was elected. Before the next election the nurses should demand that the College Register is in print, so that they can appeal to their colleagues if they can afford to do so. Otherwise, we repeat, "No Nurses Need Apply."  
—Ed.]

## WASTE OF NURSES' MONEY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I note that Professor Glaister has not availed himself of the invitation of "Glasgow Born and Bred" to Confessional. I take it, therefore, that, in a sentence or so, she gave a little word picture of the methods of campaign as organised by the College of Nursing, Ltd., and the Independent Nurses respectively: "The Man from Scotland" travels up first-class on the guineas of the nurses, and "Glasgow Born and Bred" journeys up third-class on her earnings. Bravo,

sturdy campaigner; we welcome those of your kidney to the fight. Once I heard a Member of the College Council say how "nice" it was to be able to travel first-class to London every fortnight, if she chose, without expense. But it is not by the luxury offered by a first-class travelling compartment, nor by money, nor by influence, that we hope to win freedom for the nurses and protection for their hardly won qualifications. We have grasped the fact that our battle has to be fought with brains and pens, and we rely on those who, as a speaker at the Conference said, will "fight to the end," will fight—and they are the best of all fighters—even when hope has gone. But it has not come to that, for the independent nurses, they—who would be the architects of their own profession, are gathered to the standard of the Royal Charter, each in her own place and in her own way, fighting shoulder to shoulder for the liberty, the progress, and the economic independence of the nurses. Those who prefer patronage—who, mentally, are not sufficiently evolved to do more than reflect the policy of "their betters"—may join the College and welcome whenever a Matron bids them "hurry up." We have learnt at last that "the heads" of the profession will never, willingly, lead us out of the slave market, but we'll fight our way out ourselves, and drag with us, too, the "clogs on the wheel" who might have shared with us the stress, the sacrifice, and the glory of battle.

I am, &c.,

A BRITNER SCOT.

## NURSING PROFESSION BETRAYED.

We regret to hold over quite a number of letters dealing with the College of Nursing Meeting, held in London on the 23rd ult. The independent nurses evidently feel strongly that in supporting Clause 4 of the College Bill, which provides for any number of Supplementary Registers of specialists, the twenty-two Matrons on the Council, whose vote is overpowering in its decisions, have betrayed their professional interests and those of the public. We agree with this opinion.

## WHERE TO ADVERTISE.

Miss Pell Smith, of the Home Hospital, Leicester, writes:—"I shall be glad if the enclosed advertisement can be inserted in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING this week. . . . In response to my last advertisement I gained an excellent nurse."

The editor is pleased to receive this assurance, as she is quite sure that, in this particular instance, the nurse secured an excellent superintendent.

## 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 Cæsarian Section? To what points would you give special attention in your subsequent care of mother and child?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)