

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 MEANING OF A LEAGUE IS THE SOLIDARITY OF ITS MEMBERS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—It does one's heart good to read of the inspiring account—as you rightly call it—of the visit of Mrs. Balstone and Miss Clarke to the House of Commons, on the day preceding the passing of the Second Reading of our Bill. That these two ladies should take the trouble to travel from Bournemouth to London and back, at a time of expensive railway fares, in order—not to do the interesting thing, to hear the debate (it appears they were unable to do that)—but to do the work of lobbying Members, in order to help forward the cause, shows a very fine spirit of professional zeal and *esprit de corps* that all Nurses would do well to imitate. It was a fine contribution to the successful passing of the Second Reading. It is this type of woman that we need in large numbers in the Profession, especially now. I write to acknowledge my indebtedness to these intrepid ladies. I should also like to say thank you to Mrs. Balstone for her very kind remark about myself—kind, but undeserved. BEATRICE KENT.

A GREAT BOON.

DEAR MADAM,—If, as your correspondent, "M. V. Cullen," seems to suggest, creches could be available where mothers could "dump" the baby and younger children while they tackle their household duties, and that nightmare to housekeepers of the present day—the shopping, it would without doubt be a great boon. One realises that a great deal has been said by objectors about the duty of a mother to her child. Sometimes one wonders whether this admirable counsel is intended to apply only to the working-class mother. After all, she is of the same flesh and blood as her more gently-nurtured sister who rings for nurse when her offspring "gets on her nerves."

Of course, the tendency of the present day is the destruction of home life; but while this should be carefully guarded against, legitimate relief from the incessant strain of tending their children should be within the reach of the poor as well as the rich, and also of the lower middle classes, who, perhaps, suffer more than any in this respect.

I imagine that existing creches are chiefly used by women who go out to daily work, either from necessity or inclination, but if the above-mentioned classes were encouraged to make use of them as suggested, it would be a great step forward towards the well being of the mothers and incidentally of the babies.

I am, yours faithfully,
INTERESTED.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

"Trained at Bart's" referring to the action of the Southwark Borough Council in deciding to give three months' notice to Miss Annie Bacon, a health visitor on their staff who declines to wear a nurse's uniform, writes:—I feel furious. You working for "Registration" all these years. Here is a Public Body penalizing a woman, working on public duty, because she refuses to appear as what she is not, namely, a trained nurse. I for one have written to Miss Bacon admiring her stand for *Truth* on public service.

I wish the matter could be taken up for her sake.

May I take this opportunity of saying how deeply interested I still am in the Nursing World, though through overstrain with military duties I am now engaged with convalescent Patients.

It was a sad blow to me to read about the treatment of "Our Registration Bill," but I feel sure you will still "carry on" to victory. Had the Bill been law, this lady would not have suffered the injustice now being carried out.

"Matron, Mental Hospital" writes regarding new arrangements for nursing staff:—"Re meals. Works well, but present system of signing for each meal gives much work; an account must be kept. On our Male side the three shifts per twenty-four hours came into force July 1st, 1919, and works well, except some periods when staff, so far, cannot be fully employed; and again staff, at times, hardly sufficient for duties required. (Several new arrangements have been made to meet new conditions.) This remark has been made to me by matrons who have already started the three shifts. Men being now more quickly obtained than women, forty men joined our staff, engaged to enter on the same day. Time worked over the 96 hours per fortnight is paid at the rate of time-and-a-quarter for first two hours, and time-and-a-half afterwards. (Very expensive.) New time shifts: 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., with half-an-hour off for meal—7½ hours; 1 p.m. to 10 p.m., with half-an-hour off for meal—8½ hours; (double staff, 1 hour); 9.45 p.m. to 6.15 a.m. with half-an-hour off for meal—8 hours. We hope to start the new system on Female side at an early date I have almost sufficient extra staff."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

August 30th.—What advice would you give in a case of chronic phthisis which had to be nursed at home?

September 6th.—Mention the principal baths used for hygienic and therapeutic purposes, and the instructions you would give, or the methods you would adopt, to ensure their efficient application.

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