

of which has yet to be defined. Here, indeed, is a point which should be watched and criticised if necessary.

Yours faithfully,
ONWARD.

THE ECONOMIC POSITION OF NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—In connection with the exceedingly valuable report on the Economic Position of Nurses, issued by the National Council of Women, I may, perhaps, be permitted to express satisfaction at the general tenor of the recommendations regarding their physical welfare, and more especially as to the time allowed for meals. In a letter read at our Caxton Hall Conference on the Feeding of Nurses, 1910, the Governor of a large provincial Hospital remarked: "Nothing is more important for nurses at the present day, especially for those in Voluntary Hospitals, where funds may be difficult to raise, than a sufficient time for their meals. On several occasions I have advocated that three-quarters of an hour be allowed the staff for the principal meal of the day, the mid-day dinner. But I am always told that half-an-hour is quite enough." I do not believe this, especially when it means that not only the nurses must run back to their nursing, but the scrubbers to their scrubbing, directly they have eaten rather a full and imperfectly masticated meal of meat, vegetables and pudding. I hope your conference will be widely noticed and bear far reaching results. In our fever hospital, where I was on the Managing Committee, we allowed three-quarters of an hour to the dinner and the Matron desires the nurses not to leave till the time has expired."

In his sympathetic and stimulating preface to the Report, Dr. Robert Hutchison expresses the conviction that "it is the æsthetic side of the nurses' diet which most calls for amendment." "There are probably few hospitals nowadays," he adds, "in which the food provided for the nurses is actually deficient in quantity, but there are many in which bad cooking, unattractive serving, and an inadequate allowance of time for meals tend to put the nurse 'off' her food and so lead to waste on the one hand and impaired health and vitality on the other."

On a future occasion I will, with your permission, deal in greater detail with the grave facts brought out, which cause small surprise and will indicate some undisclosed causes and suggest further remedies.

Meanwhile, I should be happy to be of service to any of your readers, *e.g.*, by forwarding the Report, post free 7d., containing Miss Musson's masterly paper, the discussion, Press opinions, &c., with particulars of recently issued Dietaries for feeding large numbers, and a list of publications, including recipe books. Yours, &c.,

CHAS. E. HECHT,

Hon. Sec. Hospital Matrons' Committee.
Food Education Society, late National Food
Reform Association, Danes' Inn House,
265, Strand, W.C.2.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Co-op Nurse: "Never has private nursing been so scarce, and as we nurses have to pay 35s. a week when waiting, if things don't improve, we must give it up. No doubt the higher fees and cost of living make many people hesitate to have a nurse—they simply cannot afford it. Then in London the large hospitals canvass their honorary staff to give all their work to those on their private staffs. London men have told me this often, and now, no doubt, St. Thomas' men will have to do likewise. We are gradually being deprived of all freedom in practice by these greedy hospital governors. To talk of freedom and liberty in this country is simply a farce."

Ex Matron: "I hope we are going to have a reunion of the Nurses' Organisations to celebrate Peace, and a confab to discuss the lessons of the war. I don't seem to see many of these 'new hearts' at home, which we insisted palpitating in German bosoms."

Stay-at-Home: "What a frenzy of fussy interference is now rampant! First the Government, then the Red Cross. I would that people would mind their own business and let others do likewise."

Probationer of the Future: "I read with interest the reason why so many V.A.D.s do not train as nurses. . . . If those in authority improved conditions under which Nurses work, and treat them more like human beings and less like machines, there would be more encouragement to enter the nursing profession."

NOTICE.

OUR PREFERENTIAL TERMS.

We receive many enquiries concerning our Preferential Terms. The cost of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING through a newsagent is 2d. weekly, but Trained Nurses and Midwives who are members of self-governing Nurses or Midwives' organisations, can receive the JOURNAL post free by the payment, through the Office, of an annual subscription of 6s. 6d. Address The Secretary, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 1.

See page ii inside cover.

We regret to be compelled for want of space, to hold over interesting letters on Trained Nurses in Public Health.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

Again we have been disappointed in the standard of Papers sent in, and are therefore unable to award the prize.

QUESTIONS.

September 27th.—What is hyper-pyrexia? What means are available for its reduction?

October 4th.—What is the principal source of infective material in (a) pulmonary phthisis, (b) enteric fever, (c) scarlet fever, (d) diphtheria, and (e) chickenpox? State in detail how the discharge in each case should be disinfected.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)