

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.

QUEEN'S NURSES' BENEFIT FUND.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In reply to an article in the *Queen's Nurses' Magazine* for August, stating that the Queen's Nurses' Benefit Fund should now be applied to other purposes, because of the "increase" in the nurses' salaries, I would like to voice what I feel are the sentiments of a number of the older Queen's Nurses.

It was with a feeling of disappointment that I read the decision of the Council in this matter. Our older nurses have been working on a minimum salary of £35 or at the most £40 for the last twelve to twenty years. They have been looking forward to the small help of £5 to ease them; perhaps in the payment of the remainder of their Pension Premiums. The present increase in salary is even less as prices go than the pre-war salary and even those nurses, who have been twenty years on the roll, are only receiving the minimum instead of the maximum salary as in other professions, considering the years of service. It is a great pity that it was not decided at the Conference on May 17th that those who had already served for at least twelve years should begin now at the maximum. It seems a short-sighted policy that those at the head of affairs should think it necessary to deprive the nurse of this small, but welcome addition to a salary; which, according to the present value of money, is not actually increased. We all feel it is unfortunate that this "increase" has been so tardy and has now come, not because of the nurses' need, but because of the dearth of candidates for this particularly underpaid branch of the profession. We wonder if it has not come too late. But perhaps, "better late than never."

THE MINIMUM AFTER FIFTEEN YEARS.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

A Flatfooted Pro: "I read every word of the splendid report on the Economic Position of Nurses. If only we might be nurse students, and treated as such, what a difference it would make; but I fear the many humane suggestions would cost more than we poor drudges are worth!"

Sufferer from Untrained Commandant: "We trained nurses had hoped that when the war was over we should have done with V.A.D. competition, but alas! from reports in the Press this week, all the Red Cross Social control is to continue, and apparently with the approval of the Privy Council and the War Office. If the Joint War Committee who know nothing about it is to have all this professional nursing power over patients and nurses, where does the Ministry of Health come in? It doesn't seem required."

Member of College (Private Nurse): "The first thing nurse members of the College of Nursing should do, is to unite to protest against the hospitals running Private Nursing Institutions, and thus absorbing the work and fees due to certificated nurses working independently on the co-operative system. Many of us have been out of work for weeks!"

Trained Municipal Nurse: "What are Health Visitors, and what use are they? Let us have thoroughly trained Public Service Nurses, and more highly qualified Midwives; then there will be no need for these Visitors. The people only tolerate them because they imagine they are nurses."

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.

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The Editor regrets that owing to restricted space she must ask correspondents to curtail letters to not more than five inches. She has received several lately of more than a column in length, containing matter of value and interest to the profession, but which have had to be held over till next week. This is injurious to the continuity of the discussion.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

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.

October 11th.—Name and differentiate between the different kinds of hæmorrhage met with in pregnancy.

October 18th.—How are foods digested? Name the various juices secreted by the different parts of the alimentary canal.

October 25th.—In what ways may a patient's breathing be affected, and what is their significance?

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