

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 GRAND BIT OF WAR WORK.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Will you allow me through your columns to notify Matrons and Sisters of Convalescent Hospitals and Sanatoria where sick and wounded soldiers are being nursed that we have several hundred pairs of our soft warm slippers to distribute.

Since August 1914 we have made and sent out to Hospitals and Hospital ships over 41,000 pairs and we know that they have been greatly appreciated especially in cold weather.

We are sure they would be invaluable now, particularly for those undergoing open-air treatment as they are so warm and comfortable to wear.

I can forward them either by rail or post, carriage paid from my address as below.

Yours faithfully,

ELEANOR PAINE.

"Wharfedale,"

48, Harpur Street,
Bedford.

TRAINED NURSES IN PUBLIC HEALTH.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—I have always understood that the Queen's Jubilee Institute do advocate a minimum of three years' general training for district nursing. We advocate the same minimum for health visiting. The people a health visitor visits are the same as those whom a district nurse nurses.

There is nothing in the regulations to give one grounds for supposing that a girl of 20, who has had two years' training as a health visitor will take her general training. The regulations say it is not necessary, nor is it necessary for her to be trained as a midwife. She need not be anything except a girl from a secondary school.

I sent for a prospectus of the Battersea Polytechnic, and I was offered an interview with the Head. I heard a great deal about the Board of Education, and I ventured to ask how many students were in training. I was not told how many. I asked if many nurses were in training. I was jauntily answered, "Not many."

I asked what were the qualifications of the teachers at the Polytechnic. The astounding answer was that the head mistress could not understand why anyone should ask questions at all; if the qualifications of the teachers satisfied the Board surely that was enough.

I asked if the one year course included training for the C.M.B. It did not. I ventured to point out that all Universities published the qualifications of their teachers. I also pointed out that

as the one year course would cost about £160, people had the right to ask sensible questions.

I think that a university is not such a good preparation for a health visitor as a general hospital. I cannot see why any well educated, healthy young woman cannot take her general training and enter public health through that portal. A University degree was not designed for health work. Trained nurses in Public Health say:—lay down the three years' training as a minimum, and secure people with the best additional qualifications, such as administrative experience, children's experience, tuberculosis and fever nursing, &c. If any training is given let it be on public health lines, viz., two months in a school clinic, two months in a tuberculosis dispensary, two months in an infant welfare centre. A trained nurse, so qualified, could be sent anywhere and would know her duties instead of having to learn them. Such a course would be much better than a hotch-potch of girls and graduates who will have to be dragged through by trained nurses and for whom trained nurses will have to take the responsibility.

I remain, yours truly,

C. MARGARET ALDERMAN.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Queen's Nurse.—"I hope due notice will be given in the *B.J.N.* of the public meeting to consider a Trade Union for trained nurses. I should like to attend. If the movement is promoted by the Nurses themselves it should have a good chance of success." [See "Coming Events"—E.]

Staff Nurse.—"Everyone is against a Trade Union for Nurses in this Hospital—they would be!"

Nottingham Nurse.—"I went to hear Sir Arthur Stanley speak on Nation's Fund for Nurses at the Exchange Hall. I should like to have asked a few questions, but had not the courage. But I gathered it is more than even Mr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde could accomplish to be the champion of trained nurses and V.A.D.s at the same time. The interests of the one are always being sacrificed to the other, and the V.A.D. comes out on top every time. It is surprising how gullible nurses are. I have no use for the College after the jealous wrecking of our Bill by its spokesmen in the House of Commons on June 27th. Nothing can wipe out *that crime*, and it is useless to deny it as the letter from the College Council telling us to get M.P.s to oppose the Bill is in my possession."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

November 1st.—To what uses can a nurse put hot-water bottles for the care and comfort of patients? What are the special points to be observed in their application?

November 8th.—What are the physical defects for which a nurse or midwife should look in washing a newly-born infant? From what do they arise, and what is her duty in regard to each?

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