

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.

REVERENT REMEMBRANCE OF THE GLORIOUS DEAD.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The scene yesterday at London's cenotaph must surely have been most beautiful, and unlike anything known in history, but I wonder if anywhere those two silent minutes at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month were observed with more reverent dignity than in this military hospital. Never since Armistice Day has a service been so well attended, for at 10.55 a.m. the chapel was full to the doors, everyone, both of patients and staff, who possibly could, going there to stand in silent homage to fallen comrades.

The short service opened with—

"God of the Living in Whose eyes
Unveiled a whole creation lies,"

after the singing of which hymn the Padre (the Rev. A. Witt, C.F.) addressed a few words to the congregation, concluding on the last stroke of eleven.

Then silence, so profound that it seemed as though Nature herself stood still, whilst a nation's heart was lifted up in prayer and thankfulness.

And then—the clear notes of the bugle sounding the "Last Post" thrilled through the waiting people, and there could have been few to whom that beautiful eerie call did not bring heart-breaking memories.

A prayer followed "God Save the King," after which was sung "Now thank we all our God."

The Benediction seemed to include more than the men and women gathered there, and when, the service ending with the Doxology, we returned to the duties of the day, one felt that an old book had been re-opened and a new light thrown upon its tear-stained pages.

It is good to have turned them over with gentle hands and loving thoughts.

Lest we forget!

M. DIXON, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.
Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley.

PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—In your issue of the 15th inst., you couple my name with Miss MacCallum's, when congratulating the Union on its initial success. Her share in the work of promotion far out-balances anything that I have done.

On my arrival from Poland, the Provisional Committee had already met once or twice; I was invited to attend and quickly realized that the rank and file had risen at last and that everyone who had the welfare of the profession at heart

must help forward this new movement. As an old campaigner I offered my services. History repeats itself. In 1916, on my return from France, I discovered the College of Nursing, Ltd., had held its inaugural meetings, and after careful enquiries and thorough investigation of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company determined to warn nurses of the trap laid for the unwary. Naturally, my first efforts were directed towards my fellow nurses at Guy's Hospital; the reply of one with whom I trained still rings in my ears, "It's all very well for you, Paterson, you're independent!" Not so economically independent as she inferred, but, thank God, independent in spirit! Returning again from Foreign Service, I find the foundations laid for a Trades Union of Nurses. I have remained in London and turned my war gratuity to account in working for the profession.

Till, however, the N.U.T.N. magnanimously agreed at their Council meeting not to "queer the pitch" of the new Union, I did not join, though, as an individual, I was quite at liberty to work and speak in favour of a Trades Union.

This is going to be a big step forward, a big thing, to be managed by nurses themselves. I advise all who favour T.U. principles to join at once, so that they may have a voice in the management. The constitution must be passed by members, the Council and Officers chosen by members—so let "Do it now" be the motto not "grumble afterwards." I touch again, in closing on the original theme—the Provisional Committee is composed of busy working nurses who, when they give their "off duty" time to the promotion of the Union, give equally with us who happen at the moment to be free.

I am,

Yours &c.,
JENTIE B. N. PATERSON.

NOTICE.

The Editor will be obliged if any colleague in the F.F.N.C. or friend will send her the present addresses of Sisters Dorothy Coppin, Evelyn Bright Robinson, (Mrs.) Sarah Hallam, Martha L. Mann, Louisa M. Mooney, Annie Roberts, and Florence Burn (now married), as their gold wrist-let watches await them.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.**QUESTIONS.**

November 22nd.—What are the functions of the teeth? What method of caring for them do you advocate—for a school child, for a healthy adult, for a sick person? What untoward conditions may result from defective teeth?

November 29th.—What treatment have you seen given in a case of ex-ophthalmic goitre, and how would you nurse such a case?

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