

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.

NURSES AND TRADE UNIONISM.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I read the account of the Professional Union meetings in London through and through with the greatest pleasure.

I am so glad it met with such success and enthusiasm. It is the very thing that is required and the sooner it is extended to Scotland the better.

Miss Macdonald's speech appealed to me very much, especially her "Second Danger." How often I have felt these feelings of reaction from overstrain! In fact, as I read, I seemed to be taken back to the days of probation and the semi-dazed condition in which we performed the last hours of work before going to bed—or falling asleep in a hot bath in the attempt to achieve the longed-for rest.

It is a most rude awakening when the head goes under. I sometimes wonder I am alive to tell the tale.

Yours faithfully,
C. H. MCARA.

Hillview, Balmore, N.B.

FRIENDLY NEIGHBOUR v. CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—At a meeting of the Scottish Midwives' Association, the question of the employment of midwives by doctors was discussed.

It was regretted that so often doctors in working-class practice, called in the assistance of a friendly neighbour, rather than availing themselves of the skilled and intelligent help of a certified midwife.

If the medical profession would employ women who are enrolled by the Central Midwives' Board, it would go a long way to help in the efficient nursing of mothers and infants, and would establish the position of the midwife.

I am, yours faithfully,
J. COWPER,
Secretary.

ARE MIDWIVES TRAINED NURSES?

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Commenting on my letter to the Press concerning Midwives and the Nation's Tribute to Nurses, a note in your issue of the 1st inst says: "The whole point in our opinion is that midwives are not necessarily nurses and that the fund was raised to help certificated trained nurses." If midwives are not nurses, what are they? Perhaps you will invite the opinion of midwives and matrons of midwifery training schools on that point. For my part, I have always been of the opinion that certified midwives are

trained nurses in their own special branch. Further, if the fund was raised to help only certified, *i.e.*, general, trained nurses, why did not the Executive Committee make the fact known at their first meeting instead of waiting for a whole year and then discovering this important point through a resolution proposed by one of its members?

I quite agree, of course, that one of the objects of the Irish Nurses' Union is to secure adequate remuneration for both general and midwifery trained nurses. That urgently necessary work, so long left undone, has fallen to us to do, and we are doing it. But it cannot be done in a day, and even if it could be, that would not help the midwife, who is already incapacitated for further work. It was on behalf of these nurses that I wrote to the Irish Press.

I am, Madam,
Yours faithfully,
EMILY O'NEILL,
Vice-President.

[We hope some of our readers will express an opinion on this question.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

A Male Nurse: I note the report in the press of a struggle between a probationer nurse, and a patient at the Victoria Park Chest Hospital, who in spite of the girl's plucky attempt to save him, committed suicide by jumping out of the window.

At the inquest, that it was stated that the patient was suffering from acute mania. Is it permissible to enquire why a girl probationer was in charge of this dangerous case? Surely an experienced male mental nurse should have been in charge—when it is not improbable that the patient's life might have been saved.

Trade Union Nurse: The perturbation and opposition of the College of Nursing, Ltd., to a Trade Union for Nurses, proves without further ado how necessary such a union, supported by the law, is. We don't intend to be crushed out by our employers—or to be degraded by their charity. The College is founded and supported on doles—we want none of it, but a self-supporting salary, so that we may preserve our independence. Why should the College fear our Trade Union?

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.
QUESTIONS.

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

December 6th.—What do you know of Vitamines, and of their importance in relation to infant feeding?

December 13th.—What is meant by "Barrier Nursing"? What are the necessary details to be carried out in "Cubicle Nursing"?

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