

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.

PREVENTION OF VENEREAL DISEASE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Miss Bielby's letter in this week's BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING gave me a thrill of satisfaction and a feeling of fellowship in my groping after the real remedy for venereal disease. To me mere physical disinfection does indeed seem "tinkering with the horror"; for I can't help thinking that to most men escaping the consequences of their wrong-doing is positively dangerous from a moral point of view, and I believe the general use of prophylactic packets would do untold harm.

Of course the alternative is to allow the disease to go unchecked. But are we called upon to make a decision between these two evils? Is it not rather a call to a larger faith?

There are still a multitude who have not bent the knee to Baal, and though we are blinded by our exceedingly practical commonsense that must be satisfied by *results*, the Hosts of the Lord are still there ready to fight on our side if we will.

Success! Failure! How are we to judge it? Has not the greatest apparent failure of all times furnished us with our eternal salvation? Commonsense, practical measures, certainly; but let us not forget in our efforts to stem this evil to hold to our highest ideals at any cost.

I am, Madam,

Yours faithfully,

MARIE VAUGHAN WINTERS.

General Hospital,

Nottingham.

OTHER MATRONS PLEASE FOLLOW SUIT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was one of those who, on seeing the notice in the Nursing Press, went to the Temperance Hospital to hear the R.B.N.A. and College, Ltd., speakers. The College representative made several incorrect statements, I have proved them to be so from their own literature. The R.B.N.A. speaker's remarks rang true, and there was no doubt with which side the honours lay. But what I do wish to express is my admiration of the right-minded attitude of the Matron of the Temperance Hospital, who *dared* to allow her nurses to hear both sides and to judge as their own consciences dictated. All honour to her, and I congratulate the Temperance nurses on having such a Matron.

I am, &c.,

A LOVER OF FAIR PLAY.

[The fact that the officials of the majority of London and other hospitals have refused facilities to their nurses to hear speakers from nurses' organisations, other than those of the College of Nursing, Ltd., has naturally aroused indignation and adverse criticism.—ED.]

POOR LAW MATRONS READY AND WILLING TO HELP THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I should like to thank you for your appreciative notice in last week's BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of the work in the past of the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association, and the help it could give in the future. You mention that this could be extended through Miss Dowbiggin to the General Nursing Council. I expect when writing you overlooked the fact that Miss Seymour Yapp—unfortunately away through illness for the moment—is also a representative of Poor Law nursing on that Council, and one who has very great knowledge of Poor Law nursing conditions, especially in the provinces.

I feel sure that our Association—which includes among its members nearly all the Matrons and Superintendent Nurses of those infirmaries recognised by the Ministry of Health as training schools for nurses—will unite to help in every way in their power the important work now being carried out by the General Nursing Council.

Both Miss Dowbiggin and Miss Seymour Yapp are members of our Executive Committee, elected by postal ballot.

Yours very truly,

ELEANOR C. BARTON,

President Poor Law Infirmary
Matrons' Association.

Chelsea Infirmary, S.W.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

QUEL PRIX?

London Hospital Matron: "What price trained nurses? I enclose cutting from *Times* :—

"Ex-V.A.D. required as companion to invalid lady who proposes to reside in flat or hotel on the South Coast for the summer. Applicant must be a capable nurse as well as companion, and willing to generally assist in looking after the invalid's welfare. Salary £150 per annum, all found.—Applications to be made to —."

THE RIGHT SPIRIT.

Another V.A.D.: "I also have refused to compete any longer with trained nurses. I never could resent their considering me a 'blackleg,' as more than one matron gave me charge of a ward during the war. I am now knuckling under and mean in time to pass the State Examination and become a 'registered nurse.'"

[We commend this spirit.—ED.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Will correspondents kindly note that, as each letter now costs 2d., a stamp for this amount must be enclosed if an answer is required. Also, if articles are submitted for approval, a stamped and addressed envelope must be sent, otherwise, in the event of non-acceptance, the MSS. cannot be returned.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

QUESTIONS.

June 19th.—What do you know of hay fever, its causes and treatment?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)