

## 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.*

## COMPARISONS ARE INSTRUCTIVE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I had the privilege of attending the meeting at Chandos Street and also the very elegant one at the Automobile Club on the 15th inst., both held to celebrate the passing into law of the Nurses' Registration Act.

"Comparisons," we are told, "are odious," but as they are also instructive, perhaps you will find a corner in your paper to record the impressions of a very ordinary person who is not deeply versed in these matters.

The first thing that struck one in both places was the audience. In Chandos Street it was alive, interested and full of vitality, and there could be no doubt but that it was almost entirely composed of nurses. In the fine ball-room of the Automobile Club, the audience was most chaste—fur coats, pearl necklaces, gold-handled umbrellas were the order of the day—but very little enthusiasm was displayed. A good many V.A.D.s, a sprinkling of ladies in khaki, and seemingly the cream of society, had turned out to hear the Minister of Health and the other gentlemen who accompanied him; except for the representatives of the Army and Navy, however, one looked in vain for nurses.

The second point that struck one was the difference in the Minister. In Chandos Street, he evidently found himself the friend of the family and an honoured guest, and seemed quite at home and interested. At the Automobile Club, he appeared to be infected by what I might call the ladylike—not to mention Early Victorian—air of the audience, which appeared too apathetic or uninterested to applaud, and seemed afraid to raise its voice. I might remark also that the ladies who spoke from the platform seemed afraid to raise *their* voices, as it was very difficult to hear what they had to say. If the Minister had had any doubts as to which audience was the living force and the one most likely to be of service to the State, I think probably he knows now.

Yours faithfully,

A COLLEGE MEMBER.

## NURSES SHOULD BE ADMITTED AT LESS COST.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—May I write a protest against the exorbitant prices being charged for seats for the film play, "The End of the Road," at the evening performances?

As a Public Health Nurse, surely one should see this film at a figure within one's income? Three-

and-six is surely beyond the majority of us for such a valuable item in our professional education.

Faithfully yours,

EDITH HASLAM,

Infant Welfare Centre, Superintendent.  
20, Archer Street.  
Notting Hill, W. 11.

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

R.B.N.A.—"I have been a member of the R.B.N.A. for many years. I am glad to see this Chartered Corporation taking such an active and leading part in nursing affairs. This is as it should be, because we shall all register now that registration is to be under State authority; but we shall then, as professional nurses, need our Association for social purposes more than ever. Can you get it realised by the younger nurses that nothing worth having is to be had without some personal sacrifice—and financial support. If every Registered Nurse would join the Association and subscribe one guinea annually for the upkeep of high professional ideals and, incidentally, personal benefit, as the members of the British Medical Association do—and to include the B.J.N.—we should prove our solidarity and grow in grace and influence. I gather from the report of the College meeting, at the Automobile Club, that its Chairman proposes to launch another cadging campaign on our behalf through the *Daily Telegraph*—this time from the 'Tommies!' It is scandalous, if true; and now that we have the status of professional women, it is our duty to come out and give expression to our detestation of this proposed humiliation. What has the Army to do with Nursing Education? To serve it in the war was our greatest honour and pleasure, and no one has any right to demand payment in our name. We must demand an interview with Lord Burnham, the proprietor of the *Daily Telegraph*, and let him plainly understand the feelings of the self-respecting members of the Nursing Profession (for we are a profession now) to any such appeal. His chief lady journalist—Miss Billington—well knows our feelings on this matter, as does Lady Cowdray." [We strongly deprecate an appeal to the soldiers and their families, in support either of Nursing, Education or Charity for Professional Nurses, and agree with our correspondent that neither Sir Arthur Stanley nor Lord Burnham has the right to make such an appeal in our name.—ED.]

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

## QUESTIONS.

January 24th.—What do you know of anthrax, and of the methods of infection with this disease? What are the nursing points to be observed in caring for a case?

January 31st.—Describe the Psychic Temperament and its place in Progressive Evolution.

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