

## 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.*

## THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—I read with much interest the proceedings of our professional Council. I also noted with apprehension that the "College" element seemed to vote (for the Education Committee) on the principle of putting in College Matrons rather than a known authority on Public Health work. Matrons may be educational experts, but the Matron who has never spread her wings beyond the pinnacle of hospital life is no authority on the various branches now filled by nurses "out in the world."

I am, &c.,

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE.

## LEST WE FORGET!

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—While walking recently down a street close to Oxford Circus, I was accosted by a man who carried a heavy basket filled with white heather.

I was about to turn my face from this poor man, when, at the same moment, his silver badge caught my eye and his weary dejected expression caught at my heart.

"O, please, madam, do buy; I haven't sold one piece to-day."

The few coppers I was about to offer him sneaked back ashamed of themselves into my purse and I stayed to hear his story.

He was a wounded man who had served nearly four years, and his papers, which he showed me, proved 40 per cent. disablement. He was an engineer before the war, but his contracted hand, scarred with many wounds, rendered a resumption of his trade impossible.

"I suppose I don't know the way to sell flowers," he said; "people don't even stop to look."

Had he no pension? Yes; 16s. weekly—which he again produced papers to prove.

He had married since his discharge, and hence no provision was made for his wife and three little children.

He assured me there was absolutely no food at home, and "how I am going to find 7s. 6d. for rent to-night the Lord only knows. I see my wife getting thinner every day—well, same as me, if it comes to that. I'm fair broken-hearted," he said, weary tears coming into his eyes. "You're the first person who has spoken a kind word to me to-day. I'm going straight to the Post Office to send this home," he said, looking down at my few inadequate shillings in his hand.

Unfortunately, sentiment for the moment obliterated my practical sense, and I omitted to get his address.

I hope I may meet him again.

It seems extraordinary that the surplus funds

of the Red Cross should not have been devoted to the after care of such cases as these, which are a blot on our nation.

A PASSER BY.

## THE CASE OF THE ELDERLY NURSE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—As an influential member of the profession, to which I have belonged since 1891, I should much like to ask you whether some posts where the age limit can be extended many years could not be thrown open to nurses like myself whose training dates back to thirty years ago.

I cannot think that mine is an isolated case. Since leaving the last hospital, of which I had charge, in March last, when it closed, I have not found it possible to get any good professional post, and am now in a non-professional post where the hours are long and the remuneration inadequate. I do not think it any use to appeal to the College of Nursing, as a former member of the Council told me it "was evident my nursing days were over," and this in spite of the fact that I had done continuous work since 1891 (when I trained in a large London hospital) with the exception of five years—from 1912—when I took a rest. Is it possible that if workers are needed in the office of the General Nursing Council, these posts may be filled by nurses up to the age of 55 years?

With apologies for troubling you, Madam,

I am, yours faithfully,

A LONG-AGO-TRAINED MEMBER OF  
THE NURSING PROFESSION.

[An age limit is not imposed in regard to all vacant appointments; we should advise our correspondent to watch our advertisement columns.—ED.]

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

*School Nurse.*—Health Leagues for School Children are a capital idea. I hope they will be organised throughout our schools. I am sure they would appeal to children and that they would respond to their teaching and influence.

*Ward Sister, London.*—Why is it that more attention is not paid to dieting of the nursing staffs in hospitals? It is all important to their efficiency. I agree with your correspondent who draws attention to the monotony of the food provided during training. It is one of the things which prevents the modern girl from taking up nursing as a profession.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

## QUESTIONS.

*August 28th.*—What measures would you take in the case of a woman in labour suffering from convulsions pending the arrival of a medical practitioner?

*September 4th.*—What are the principal drugs taken by drug addicts? What precautions would you take in regard to such patients, and what are the nursing points in caring for them?

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