

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.

PUBLIC HEALTH WORK.
THE CULTIVATED MIND.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—The complaint made by Nurses—to which you allude—that as health visitors they are often paid salaries lower than are those health visitors who hold no nursing certificate, is justified on more grounds than one. To name two: (1) Nurses in Public Health contend that full training in hospital or infirmary is the essential basis of qualifications for this form of preventive work. (2) The special qualifications that you enumerate of some health Visitors in a "certain Metropolitan Borough" can be obtained by a woman of reasonable intelligence and power of application in little more than a year, as against the nurses' three year's training. I do not, of course, refer to general education, which everyone will allow should be of a very high standard, as much for the nurse as for the health visitor.

The vexed question of qualifications has in no sense been solved by the "Regulations for the Training of Health Visitors," issued by the Board of Education more than a year ago. Both the Sanitary Inspector, Health Visitor and the Nurse Health Visitor know that work based on such training is doomed to failure. But many people who are interesting themselves in the subject for one reason or another, some worthy, others not so worthy, are firmly convinced that a nurses' training is not desirable for a health visitor. Indeed, it has been stated that a woman with a university degree is far better fitted for the work because she has a cultivated mind!

There are, alas! some nurses who do not yet understand that mere institutional training and experience are by no means all that are needed for Public Health work; it is for such to take to heart your advice. They must realise that "plus other qualifications" is the key that will open the door to higher paid posts.

If the Registered Nurse of the future is trained in general, fever, children's, skin diseases, nursing as well as hygiene, sanitation and midwifery any who show aptitude for such work could, after gaining reasonable experience in nursing, take a Post Graduate Course (which should include law and civics), just as members of the medical profession take the D.P.H. to qualify themselves for the Public Health Service. A Registered Nurse so qualified would command the highest salary, but she must not forget that most important adjunct, "The Cultivated Mind."

Yours faithfully, FLORENCE E. WISE,

Chairman, Association of Trained Nurses in Public Health Work.

POST GRADUATE INSTRUCTION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I noticed a letter in your issue of the 4th inst., headed "The Case of the Elderly Nurse," saying it is difficult to take a post graduate course for those who have home ties. I should like to say that we have been arranging for members of our Union short periods of instruction in various subjects. Perhaps this information might be useful to some of your readers.

Yours faithfully,

MAUDE MACCALLUM,

Hon. Secretary.

Professional Union of Trained Nurses.
62, Oxford Street, W. 1.

THE "MISAPPREHENSION" GUINEAS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I enclose further correspondence from the College of Nursing, Ltd., and a nurse's reply, showing the tenacious hold the employers are keeping on the "misapprehension" guineas. If you look at a theatre and the play is not acted as billed, the management at once refunds the money. This College Company, which boasts that it has nurses' interests "at heart," must, by this time, have amassed compound interest.

J. B. M. PATERSON.

(Copy of Correspondence enclosed.)

The College of Nursing, Ltd.,
7, Henrietta St., Cavendish Square,
London, W. 1.

August 19th, 1920.

DEAR MADAM,—Thank you for your letter received this morning with reference to fee you paid for College Membership and College Registration and the fee to be paid when nurses become State Registered. The agreement to which you refer was as follows:—

"The Council of the College of Nursing has drafted a 'Nurses' Registration Bill,' which provides that the Register already formed by the College of Nursing shall be the first Register under the Act. If, therefore, you are on the College Register, you will automatically and without further fee be placed upon the State Register when the 'Nurses' Registration Bill' is passed."

The Nurses' Registration Bill drafted by the College did not pass and the 'Nurses' Registration Act, which became law in 1919, was a Government Bill brought forward by the Minister of Health.

The Council of the College has offered to refund the amount, not exceeding one guinea, any College member pays to become a State Registered Nurse, if she became a Member before March 18th, 1920, and thought that her payment of the guinea for College Membership entitled her to become State Registered, irrespective of what Bill became law.

In my letter to you of August 10th I said that we must wait until the Regulations under which Nurses may become State Registered are pub-

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