

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.

TRAINED NURSES IN PUBLIC HEALTH.
To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The article published in the B.J.N. which implies that good qualifications please the Minister of Health, and therefore command high salaries, is very misleading. I think it was engineered by Women Sanitary Inspectors, and not by trained nurses, as it ought to have been done.

Good qualifications have nothing to do with the payment of public health nurses. If they had, trained nurses who have certificates for three years' general training, together with the additional certificates of the Central Midwives Board, and the Royal Sanitary Institute, would be getting the *highest* salaries.

Hundreds of nurses with good qualifications have been working in public health long before the present Minister was appointed.

New nurses are being appointed in some boroughs at £350 a year, while others who have been serving for years are expected to work for £200. What is the use of working and paying fees for qualifications if people who have been in the service the *shortest* time, are to get the *highest* salaries?

I respectfully suggest that the following things should be done:—

1. The Trade Union rate be adopted as the basis for salaries.
2. An adequate salary should be insisted upon when the appointments are sanctioned by the Ministry of Health.
3. That the Ministry should insist upon awards S.4, 101 and 126 being put into force, and the money which is owing being paid up. (126 has been owing since March.)
4. Orders which are sent down should be carried out, and *Medical Officers* held responsible when they are not carried out.

I remain, yours truly,

C. MARGARET ALDERMAN.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

I GOT IT AT ONCE.

Miss Mary Morrison (Brighton).—"Nurses owe 'H.H.' hearty thanks for her delightful review of 'Opal Whiteley.' I got it at once and now have a copy of my own. I have it on my shelf between 'The Water Babies' and 'Alice in Wonderland.' They can all be read over and over again with pleasure and much profit. I also greatly enjoyed reading the article in the R.B.N.A. Supplement last week, 'The Psychology of Failure.' It is inspired by most helpful courage. If only we could attain 'self-reliance and a certain indifference to the opinions of those about us,' how much more noble would be our ideals in relation

to our public duty—how much less timorous and self-seeking we should be!"

A PROFESSIONAL TONIC.

Miss G. Macintosh (Toronto).—"I don't know how I could keep going without my B.J.N. It is a fine professional tonic. Several of my colleagues are now taking it, and enjoy the stimulus."

EAGER TO REGISTER.

Miss Jane Carton.—"Am just off to South Africa. Had hoped to register before I sailed, Shall watch B.J.N. for information. As I am eligible to register, I suppose I shall not be held up in S.A." [We hope not. As soon (we hope, at an early date) as Rules for Registration are agreed and Forms ready, it will be announced, and all information possible given through this journal, which alone worked for the principle for so many years.—ED.]

MEDICAL MINISTER CARRIED REGISTRATION.

A London Nurse.—"A doctor friend of mine is very indignant about the *Globe* attack on doctors not helping nurses. We had a hot little chat about it. I asked him what he had ever done to help London nurses? Many still work a twelve hours' night, and also those who nurse his cases only get one-third they earn. Moreover, in the anti-registration manifestos, medical baronets and all the lesser fry on the honorary, staffs of the majority of the large hospitals have signed against State Registration for years—in their own interest, if they wanted to keep in with the Committees of these hospitals. He could not deny it, so we parted friends." [If the generous-minded members of the medical profession had not united with us, we fear we should still be out in the cold, so far as Registration is concerned. Do not let us forget it was a medical Minister who promoted and carried the Government Bill.—ED.]

A RIGHT, NOT BY COURTESY.

College Member: "An apology, as you suggest, from the College Council to members for misleading them on the State Registration question would not satisfy me at all. I want my guinea returned as a *right*, and not by courtesy."

OVERALLS AT CLINICS.

Health Visitor: "Can any of your readers tell me if there is in existence a Health Visitors' or Maternity and Child Welfare Order, stating that overalls must be worn by assistants at clinics? I feel sure I have read of such a rule, but cannot now find it quoted in any order I have."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

October 2nd.—Describe the mechanism of the ear. For what conditions should the ears be syringed; describe methods of preparation.

October 9th.—State what you know about the Care of the New-Born Babe.

October 16th.—What is Surface Nursing? How would you care for the skin, hair, mouth, and nails of a helpless patient?

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