

## 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.*

## HAY FEVER.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—In reading the paper in the June 26th issue of the B.J.N. on hay fever I noticed that no mention is made of an almost certain preventative. Hay fever is rarely cured, though it is sometimes outgrown. It can, however, be prevented by use of a homœopathic preparation, "Tincture of Authoxanthum," a few drops put in the palm of the hand and inhaled up the nose. I have recommended this to many sufferers from hay fever and it has never failed. A friend of mine only last week told me that this was the first spring or early summer she had enjoyed for 21 years, and she was a real martyr to hay fever.

Yours obediently,

MARY DEMPSTER.

50, Thurloe Square, S.W. 7.

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

## INDIVIDUAL ACTION BY MATERNITY NURSES.

*Maternity Nurse.*—"I have little patience with all this work shirking. Nursing the sick seems the last inclination of the modern nurse. All the same, I note the College of Nursing, Ltd. (its Council, I presume), wants a fifty-six hours' week instead of forty-eight hours for all nurses, excepting maternity nurses. As it does not admit maternity nurses to membership and has no maternity nurse on its Council, by what right does it meddle with our affairs and address the Ministry of Labour concerning them? As maternity nurses have no organisation, let us state our case individually to the Minister—whether we wish to be included in the Special Order or not. Wild horses will not drag me from my mothers and babies if it is not safe to leave them."

## TOP DOGS.

*Scottish Sister.*—"I have just written a strong letter to the *Glasgow Herald* on the salary of the Education Authority Nurses—£130 per annum! On the recent occasion of the Director of Education in Glasgow having his salary raised from £1,500 to £2,000, a member said 'he felt sure the rate-payers did not put them there to sweat their employees!' The British Medical Association has issued the usual notice, as the Assistant Medical Officer's salary is *below the minimum*. I suggested it was time the Nurses' Union got busy. I asked the Commission if they were only concerned with the salary of the top dogs!"

## HOW NOT TO DO IT.

*A Glasgow Sister.*—"I wonder if all the people who undertake to administer War Funds are possessed of unreason and lack of commonsense! A friend of mine who nursed in France 'for the duration,' was more than once mentioned in despatches, and was decorated, found, after taking up her previous work, that she would have to undergo a serious operation. The consequent drain on her finances was considerable, and having no pension to help her along, she applied to the Fund for the Disabled to see if it could do anything for her. They were sympathetic and sent her a form to fill up, one of the questions being something like—

"Are you in receipt of any other pension? and the answer, of course, was "None."

"The reply to this was that they were sorry, but *had she had a pension they could have helped her; as it was they could not*. Had she had one, of course, they would not have been troubled. But then, 'unto every one that hath shall be given,' and so the matter ended."

## THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE.

*A Sinn Fein Sister, Ireland.*—"Matters over here are very quaint. Troops and guns and bombs and tanks, and aeroplanes still pour in. The English Government fancy that by their help, and through their excesses, they are governing the country. The reverse is the case.

Our county and district Councils, with few exceptions, recognise no authority but that of Dáil Eirann, and the petty and quarter sessions courts are being deserted for our Republican Arbitration Courts. Government, in short, is actually being carried on by Sinn Fein, in all its branches. Raids, arrests, and shootings are continually carried on by the military and police. The barracks of the police are being burned to prevent their occupation by the military. Meanwhile we govern the country by the will of the people."

*Dublin Nurse.*—"I doubt if the General Nursing Council makes rules if the Sinn Fein nurses will register here. They will have nothing to do with an English Act of Parliament. You cannot realise our difficulties—we dare not say what we think."

## FIRE THEM OUT.

*Miss Anita Trueman (Manchester).*—"I heartily support Miss Simpson's plea that the B.J.N. should help to stop the disgusting practice of men caning school girls. It only proves the men who have to employ this barbarous treatment are unfit for their job. Let the authorities fire them out."

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

## QUESTIONS.

*July 17th.*—What do you know of the methods by which tuberculosis is transmitted from one person to another, and the measures necessary for the prevention and eradication of the disease?

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