

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.

A NARROW-MINDED VIEW.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I should be very much obliged if you would publish in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING a few of the letters received from College Matrons and Lady Superintendents with regard to literature sent round to Hospitals and Institutions by this Union. It will show the narrow-minded view some of the members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., take. Why are they afraid to allow Nurses to hear both sides of the question?

The following was received from a Norwich Superintendent recently:—

"I beg to return you the Application Forms, &c., and to state that I am not in the least in sympathy with the Professional Union of Trained Nurses. I am proud to say I am a trained Nurse, and a member of the College of Nursing, Ltd., in which cause I take great interest."

Why, however, refuse to give the papers to her Nurses?

Yours faithfully,

MAUDE MACCALLUM,

Hon. Secretary Professional Union of Trained Nurses.

[Much better not try to prevent free speech. We believe in it. Hyde Park has saved us from revolution so far.—Ed.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

CINDERELLA NURSING.

Member of the College of Nursing: "May I protest in the *B.J.N.* against the tone adopted to our Profession by the lay editor of the *Bulletin*, who, I presume, does not hesitate to avail herself of a salary from what she terms 'Cinderella Nursing,' a most impertinent manner in which to describe our profession in our own quarterly organ? After writing fulsome nonsense about Lord and Lady Cowdray for disbursing a little of their superfluous wealth, she designates them the "fairy godmother and fairy godfather of Cinderella Nursing." If the public have come to consider Nursing as the Cinderella of women's professions, nothing has done more to lower us to this position than Lady Cowdray's campaign in connection with the Nation's Fund for Nurses, and no one has got less out of it than 'Cinderella,' to judge from the belated Report of the Fund criticised last week. It appears to me scandalous that out of £92,000 the Nation's distressed nurses have only been allocated £2,144 11s. 6d. in two years and a-half. We want no 'fairy godmothers' controlling our affairs through their huge banking

accounts; nothing is more dangerous to the liberties of working people."

MONOPOLISED BY LAYMEN.

Certificated Nurse: "Can you tell me why all important posts in Nursing Organisations are monopolised by laymen? Nothing apparently can be done without patronage so far as nursing is concerned."

[It is a fact that such patronage is usually assumed by men. The excuse is that they are more businesslike than women, especially nurses. The truth is they have more money to finance schemes, and a greater love of power. But don't forget the V.A.D. Commandants during the war and the manner in which socially prominent untrained women gaily assumed the responsibility of hospital Matrons. Nursing, unfortunately for members of the profession, appeals to the sentimental British public. No one patronises shop girls and clerks.—Ed.]

COMFORT THE ESSENCE OF GOOD NURSING.

An Old Sister (London):—"Of course, 'smoothing pillows and soothing the fevered brow' may be a subject for amusement, when it is considered the acme of nursing by the gifted amateur; but the comfort of the patient is the essence of good nursing. Do hospital nurses realise this? Not always. I remember in my Pro. days being directed to deprive the patients in bed of head shawls. This was a real cruelty, as the windows and ventilators had to be kept open, and to escape a draught was almost impossible. Now a nice little fleecy white shawl over head and ears is as great a comfort to the head as a hot bottle is to the feet, and why should a patient be deprived of it if used to wearing it. Night caps, skull caps, even lace caps, were worn by the middle-aged in my youth, and (low be it spoken) I always sleep with a wisp of Shetland wool over my head in bed—most comfy."

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

March 12th.—In what ways may infection take place in the parturient and puerperal woman? How can a nurse or midwife help to prevent sepsis? What is her duty when it occurs?

March 19th.—Describe the methods to be adopted for keeping a patient's bed dry when undergoing the Carrel-Dakin treatment, or any form of continuous irrigation.

March 26th.—What precautions do you take, when nursing a helpless patient, for the prevention of bedsores? At what stage would you report a threatening bedsore to the medical practitioner in charge of the case?

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