

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 SOMERSET ASSOCIATION FOR THE WELFARE OF WOMEN AND GIRLS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—It might possibly be of interest to your readers to know that we are about to open a Home for Unmarried Mothers and their babies in this county.

The Somerset County Nursery Home is situated in the village of South Petherton, in Somerset, in beautiful surroundings, and a healthy locality. The Superintendent, Miss Verinder, is a fully trained nurse-midwife with experience in rescue work, and the Assistant Matron is also fully trained. The Home is visited by a local doctor and is sanctioned by the Ministry of Health. Twelve to fourteen girls can be accommodated, and are received before the confinement, nursed through it, and remain in the Home with the child until physically and mentally fit to take up work, for which they will be trained during their stay in the Home. Only first cases will be accepted, and in every case the girl must remain not less than six months in the Home.

The Home is intended primarily for Somerset cases, but girls from outside the county will be taken at the start, until all the vacancies are filled. The fees are 12s. 6d. weekly and £1 1s. for the confinement, but girls recommended by Affiliated Branches of the Association will be taken at the reduced fee of 10s. weekly. Application to be made to the Organising Secretary, Miss Joseph, Holford, Bridgwater, who will be pleased to supply any further information if required.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

F. C. JOSEPH.

NO RECOGNISED TRAINING SCHOOL AT PRESENT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Can you give me an explanation of the two following sentences quoted from the Annual Report of a General Hospital (1920):—

"The Number of Beds available for In-patients during 1920 were 86.

"The Hospital being a recognised Training School for Nurses, the following particulars of the year's work are recorded:—

"Seven Nurses completed their training and received their Certificates."

When I received my Training, I understood a Hospital with less than 100 beds was not a recognised Training School.—Yours, etc.,

EX-HOSPITAL SISTER.

[So far there has been no central body to authoritatively state what is a recognized training

school, although 100 beds is often mentioned as the standard. The number of beds is however not the only criterion. The average occupied beds, and the nature of the cases admitted, are also of importance. We are of opinion that if the cases are acute and varied, and the teaching good, a sound training can be given in a hospital of less than 100 beds. For instance, excellent training is given in some County Hospitals which have not this number. Now that General Nursing Councils have been appointed by Act of Parliament in the three Kingdoms we may soon hope for an authoritative list of recognised training schools for nurses, and also that gaps in the training facilities of one institution may be filled by affiliation with another institution which is able to provide this training. Thus by co-ordination and systematization the best possible use will be made of the material available.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

NURSES OBJECT TO UNEMPLOYMENT TAX.

Miss Jean Lawson, London.—"Nothing will induce me to pay for unemployment benefit, or as it really is, so far as nurses are concerned, the unemployment tax. What can be done to me? Shall I have to go to Holloway?"

[Ask the Minister of Labour. We believe the Government protects itself by penalising the employer. This type of legislation is designed for the benefit of industrial extern workers. The subscriptions of professional women, who do not need and who do not intend to apply for such doles, will go to support industrial applicants.—ED.]

BEHIND THE TIMES.

S. T. G., Liverpool.—"How I should like to take the Post-Graduate Course for Nurses on the Boston Floating Hospital; but, alas, the cost of journey is prohibitive. Fancy this fine work having been on the go for 22 years, and this the first we have heard of it in Liverpool!"

[Evidently you have not been a reader of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. We have brought this interesting work to the notice of our readers from time to time for many years.—ED.]

CANADIAN NURSES SYMPATHISE.

Miss May Summers.—"It is only a few months ago, after years of disappointment, that we hoped we had chased the Nation's Fund for Nurses off the hoardings in England. It really is a shame, just as we hoped we had got rid of its demoralising influence, to find Lady Harvey playing the mendicant upon our behalf throughout Canada. I am glad to hear our Canadian cousins are up in arms upon our behalf."

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

April 16th.—What is marasmus? What are the principal nursing points in caring for a case of this kind?

April 23rd.—What are the principal counter-irritants, and how are they applied?

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