

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.

TWO DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY SMALLER HOSPITALS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—May I be allowed to correct a false impression likely to arise from my remarks, at the General Nursing Council discussion, about the attendance of probationers at classes and lectures.

I fear my meaning was not clear. I intended to point out two difficulties the smaller hospitals experienced: First, that of paying an educational staff; second, the difficulty of ensuring that the probationers should be able to attend lectures and classes at times which cannot be altered and which must be fixed long in advance, if a travelling Sister-tutor were to give them. In a small hospital frequently short of staff, the date and hours of lectures have often to be changed at the last moment owing to illness amongst the nurses, exceptionally heavy wards and emergency operations.

This uncertainty as to time was the point I desired to make.

M. I. BARWELL,
Matron.

General Hospital,
Great Yarmouth.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

A RED LETTER DAY.

Dr. Anna Hamilton, Bordeaux.—"You may well say the laying of the first stone at Bagatelle was a red-letter day for me. I was indeed very happy. . . . On May 5th it will be twenty years since I arrived here. When I think of all the changes that have taken place I do feel deeply thankful, and trust now that were I to disappear, the work would go on developing just as it ought to."

[The next great day at Bagatelle will be the laying of the stone of the Florence Nightingale College and Home for Nurses, the funds for which have been generously contributed by the American Nurses in memory of their colleagues who died on "active duty."—Ed.]

THE FATE OF REFORMERS.

Co-operation.—"Certain Nurses' Representatives on the Staff, 22, Langham Street, W. 1, set out, some time ago, to effect reforms in the Co-operation, which has never been a real Co-operation—except in name—since 1894, when it was turned into a limited liability company without the knowledge or consent of the Nurses. It would seem from the various questions asked in the House of Commons that in spite of the treatment received, both from the members of

the Society and the Nursing Staff, these ladies are still actively engaged in trying to get the reforms carried out. I gather from the replies of the President of the Board of Trade, in the House of Commons, that he has the matter in hand. Probably the next generation of Nurses will realise, and be grateful for, the efforts and sacrifices that have been made on their account."

STRONG PREJUDICE PREVAILS.

A Trade Unionist.—"It is extraordinary that people who are otherwise fairminded and intelligent should not realise the injustice of trying to impress on inexperienced and immature minds their own prejudices with regard to certain subjects. We find in the Nursing papers, under the heading 'Sir George H. Makin's Advice,' adverse references to Trade Unions for Nurses. Nothing within recent years has so roused the employers to action as the formation of a Nurses' Trade Union. It can only be fear of the power of Trade Unionism which has galvanised them to life. How many of these Governors of Hospitals and Medical Men connected with them, have in the past raised their voices against the grave injustices under which nurses suffer?"

THE STANDARD OF TRAINING FOR PRIVATE NURSES.

Member R.N.S.—"I note two matrons, in discussing the curriculum at the Nursing Conference, appeared to think the high standard outlined was not necessary for private nurses. Why? Surely nurses working in this branch need all the knowledge and teaching they can get. No class of nurse has more individual responsibility—the private nurse is a real Nursing Practitioner—and ignorance upon her part might be fatal. The depreciation of private nursing shows obsolete ideas of the responsibility involved." [We agree.—Ed.]

J'AI CŒUR DE LION.

Superintendent.—"A Frenchwoman seeing in the B.J.N. that a Unit of Nurses were going to Greece to nurse the wounded, asked me to help her to get out. 'What are your qualifications?' I questioned. After a pause she replied: 'J'ai cœur de lion.' And not a bad asset either when dealing with the Turk!"

THE SPIRIT OF ISLA STEWART.

Member Bart's League.—"In reading the report of the Isla Stewart Dinner to League Delegates to the Conference on Nursing Education, how I wish I could have been present. I feel with you that the spirits of all the nursing pioneers were hovering around."

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

May 21st.—Describe the nursing care of a case of pulmonary tuberculosis in regard (1) to the patient; (2) to the community.

May 28th.—Describe how to care for the bedpan, urinal, spittoon, and baby's bottle?

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