

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 CLEAR UNDERSTANDING REQUIRED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—In your issue of January 1st "A Member of Bart's League" writing about the unorganised condition of nurses in Scotland, classes the Scottish Board of Health and the General Nursing Council in one category.

That nurses are hopelessly unorganised throughout Britain is only too true, as was illustrated by the failure to obtain one Registration Act legislating for the United Kingdom.

In justice to Scottish Nurses' organisation and the Scottish Board of Health, our members wish "A Member of Bart's League" and others interested to know that the Council of the Scottish Board of Health has given the members of the P.U.T.N. (Glasgow) most courteous replies in response to the resolutions forwarded by their members. With regard to the attitude of the G.N.C. concerning these resolutions let it be borne in mind that the *nominated* Council at present in power will not always be in power, and the time will come when Registered Nurses will *elect* their own representatives to this Council. Meantime, let nurses ask themselves if they will support autocracy or democracy.

Believe me, Yours faithfully,

CHRISTIAN H. MCARA,

Hon. Sec., P.U.T.N., Glasgow.

37, Stobcross Street, Glasgow.

["A Member of Bart's League" alluded to both the Scottish Board of Health and Nursing Council. We cannot agree with our correspondent that nurses are "hopelessly unorganised throughout Britain." Most thoughtful nurses belong to one organisation or another, to suit their personal predilections; we agree they are not *united* either in convictions or aims; thus a certain degree of liberty of thought and action are still reserved to them.

The failure to obtain a United Kingdom Nurses' Registration Act, if traced to its source, is the fault of the Scottish Office, which demanded autonomy when the Health Ministry was established. Thus the Minister of Health for England and Wales has no jurisdiction over the Scottish Board of Health. Moreover, when the United Kingdom's Bill, promoted by the Central Committee, was before the House of Commons, the representatives of the Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland, which had seceded, and affiliated with the College of Nursing, Ltd., spent days in the Lobby of the House opposing the Central Committee's Bill. Scottish nurses must, therefore, blame their own organisations for helping to wreck the liberally

framed United Kingdom's Bill. We are glad to learn from Miss McAra that communications from the Professional Union of Trained Nurses (Glasgow Branch) have received courteous replies from the Scottish Board of Health, but she does not inform us if the Board has acceded to the demand that its certificated fever nurses shall not as it proposed, be placed on the General Nurses' Register.

We only hope an effective system of election will be possible when the term of office of the nominated General Nursing Councils expire. Such an election will be exceedingly costly.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

HEALTH OF NATION TRIFLED WITH LONG ENOUGH.

Member Nurses' Parliamentary Committee.—"Of course, there could be no two opinions on the danger to the public and injustice to trained nurses of giving the title 'Registered' to Cottage Nurses, whether certified midwives or not, but I regret no one made the point in this connection at the recent meeting, that if any class should be provided with the best trained nurses, it is the poor. Their illness is usually acute, and it is necessary for their families that, as wage-earners, they should be returned cured to their work as soon as possible. But what the Nursing Council has got to do is to lay down a safe minimum of knowledge and skill for every nurse, and County Nursing Associations and others now permitted to provide cheap and inefficient nurses, to be made to conform to the State standard. The health of the nation has been trifled with long enough."

AN UNEXPLORED FIELD.

Miss C. Stow (Liverpool).—"I read your remarks re the Prison Commission with deep approval. The study of criminology and the nursing of criminals is a vast unexplored field which the Nursing profession should be taught to cultivate. The Prison Commission has a great opportunity—will it avail itself of expert nursing opinion on the right scheme to adopt for nursing in prisons? Presumably there are no trained nurses on the Commission. If trained nurses are to be given the rank and duties of wardresses only, there will be little hope of improvement."

REPLY TO CORRESPONDENT.

To Miss C. Munro, Colchester.—Apply to the Secretary of State for India. General and also C.M.B. Certificates are required. Pay is 250 rupees a month, and outfit allowance of £20 to £25 is allowed. Engagement six months.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

January 22nd.—What do you know of shingles? What is the meaning of the term, and what is the usual treatment?

January 29th.—What are the points of difference between epilepsy, chorea, and hysteria? Give the treatment and management suitable for each.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)