

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.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

WHERE IS THE MONEY TO COME FROM?

Grateful Assistant Matron: "I note your expression of opinion in last week's editorial that Assistant Matrons should have a salary at least half that paid to their Matrons. In these days we are a very hard-worked class, owing to absence of Matrons on public duty, and also to having to do all the less interesting jobs and having so little to do with nursing. I know of a case in a leading hospital where every member of the Nursing Staff from Matron downwards had a rise after the war *excepting the Assistant Matron*. It is not too much to expect that the Matron's understudy should be paid £250, instead of £150, as recommended by the College Council, where the senior official gets £500. I agree also that certificated Staff Nurses should receive £60, and not £40, in their fourth year's service. Here again the Staff Nurse is Sister's understudy, with much responsibility in her absence. Where the money is to come from (like Lord Knutsford) I do not know."

Hospital Secretary: "I think the Nursing Staffs in most hospitals will agree that great advances have been made in providing for their comfort of late years, also to a certain extent salaries have risen. It would be interesting to know if all the hospitals whose Matrons compose the College Council pay at the rate recommended in the circular recently issued by it, and if so, what the additional cost to each hospital will be. This institution is at present deeply in debt, and we await eagerly the conclusions of the Departmental Committee just appointed by the Minister of Health to inquire into the position of voluntary hospitals, until which time it would appear unwise to pledge the hospitals to further expenditure for which they have no funds."

SHORTER HOURS FOR PRIVATE NURSES.

One of Them: "I see in a paper of the commercial Nursing Press that the troubles through which the Nurses' Co-operation have passed are waking them up a little, and that one of their members, Miss Geraldine Bremner, is following the example of Miss Maude MacCallum, who so long has urged that shorter hours for Private Nurses are necessary. I think I read in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING a little while ago, that Miss MacCallum spoke very strongly on this matter in the General Nursing Council."

A UNION THE ONLY THING.

A Private Nurse: "I see in an Editorial Note to a letter in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, of January 8th, that you say Private Nursing should

be organised on the co-operative principle, with Nurses on the Committee. Surely it was proved lately in a Court of Law how very little use this would be to Nurses, when certain of them were not only turned off the Committee, but were deprived of their means of livelihood because they did what they were elected to do, namely, try to safeguard the Nurses' interests. Much as many of us may dislike the idea, it would really seem that a Union is the only thing that will be of use to the Nursing Profession, because while Co-operations can behave in this way in secret, it was the Professional Union of Trained Nurses which brought the matter out into public."

[We have often explained to Private Nurses that "The Nurses' Co-operation" 22, Langham Street, W., is *not* a co-operation of Nurses. The Co-operation' is composed of the incorporated persons lay and otherwise, who founded the Society. The nurses are not *members*.—ED.]

Miss M. T. Watson, R.N. (Greenwich Conn.), Belfast: "If each nurse were entitled to be known and styled as a "registered nurse" after being found duly qualified, and given a Certificate of efficiency, I do not think any fully-trained nurse would mind paying £2 2s. entrance fee and £1 is. per year afterwards."

[We quite agree as to £2 2s. registration fee, but £1 is. annually should not be necessary, the annual due of 2s. 6d. provided in the Acts will cover cost after initial fee. In the future, after term of grace, an examination fee will be necessary, as the nurses will desire that their examiners, both medical and nursing, shall be experts with the highest professional qualifications.—ED.]

OUR JEW-CONTROLLED PRESS.

Friend of France.—I have enjoyed immensely Miss Breay's most interesting papers on her visit to the devastated districts in France, and learning of what British and Americans are doing to help to re-establish the health and welfare of the greatly injured people. The organisation of the "Cards" appears admirable. How is it that we see so much in our Jew-controlled press of Germany's sufferings and so little of the brutal devastation of France? I am glad we Londoners have adopted Verdun (that's where my few spare pennies will go), not to cosset barbarians and thus help them to prepare their revenge."

NOTICE.

The Editor will be obliged if the writer of the article on the "Administration of Salines," published on page 16 of our issue of January 8th, will communicate with her at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W. 1.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

February 5th.—What do you understand by a disinfectant? What methods would you recommend for the disinfection of (a) sheets, (b) mattresses, (c) boots, and (d) furs.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)