

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 STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—I am glad to see in your columns the recommendation of the Asylums and Mental Deficiency Committee to the London County Council with regard to the inclusion of trained sick nurses on the staffs of mental hospitals.

This is, I am sure, a step in the right direction, and though difficulties in inaugurating the innovation may arise, nothing but improvement could eventually come of it.

In any case the trained nurse should unquestionably find her place in the infirmaries (both male and female) of the mental hospital.

Such a course would be of untold benefit to those who are sick in body as well as in mind, and the experience thus gained would be a valuable asset in the equipment of the trained nurse.

But she must be the right kind of person, no matter what her qualifications, only the educated, sympathetic and Christian woman should be entrusted with the care of these, the saddest class of sufferers.

INTERESTED.

FOREWARNED AND FOREARMED

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was much grieved to read of the death of Lady Truscott, for I well remember how charmingly she welcomed us, both at the Mansion House and, later, at her own house.

In those days comparatively few of us were known to one another, and it was a great thing that as members of the Service we should meet together. Little did we think of the different conditions under which we should meet in a few years' time, for the Territorial Force Nursing Service was supposed to be mobilized only in case of invasion, and few of us seriously contemplated such a contingency. Nevertheless, just as it is manifestly expedient to make military provision against invasion, so it was necessary that the nursing arrangements should be planned, and that we should all know where we were to go in the event of our being called up.

So it came to pass in that eventful August of 1914, that the Territorial Hospitals were opened at short notice, Matrons, Sisters and Nurses responded to the mobilization order, and a trained and experienced nursing staff was on duty in each hospital within 24 hours of mobilization, and quickly the hospitals were ready for the reception of the sick and wounded.

Just imagine if those buildings had not been decided upon, and the arrangements planned beforehand, and if the collection of the nursing staffs had then had to be made, and references taken up.

What chaos! The country owes a greater debt of gratitude than it even yet realizes to those who foresaw the likelihood of war with a foreign power and organized our Service in time of peace, so that 23 hospitals, ready to receive over 500 patients and capable of considerable expansion, were speedily ready. What would otherwise have happened is difficult to imagine, but certainly the saving of life and the prevention of much suffering was the direct result.

Yours faithfully,
T. F. N. S.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

REGISTERED UNIFORM AND BADGE.

Miss F. C. Higginson, Belfast writes "I have noticed in the B.J.N. many letters on the subject of uniform. Would not a registered badge for trained nurses be sufficiently distinctive? To scrap all existing uniforms would be very costly, and besides many of us consider that our own particular uniform is the one most suitable for the special branch of nursing work in which we happen to be engaged."

[The Nurses' Registration Act gives the General Nursing Council power to make provision "with respect to the uniform or badge which may be worn" by registered nurses. Thus the wearing of either, or both, is permissive not compulsory, and there will be no need to scrap existing uniforms, but there can be no doubt that the uniform of the legally qualified and registered nurse will be regarded by the public as carrying with it a special prestige.—Ed.]

GREAT ISSUES.

Miss B. James, London.—"I read with deep appreciation and pleasure the editorial in the JOURNAL this week. I understand more clearly than ever before how great were the issues in the Registration campaign, and do not think that even 34 years was a long time for the accomplishment of so great an achievement. Now that the controlling power over our standards and discipline is in our own hands, each one of us must take a pride in maintaining both at a high level."

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

August 27th.—Which infectious diseases are particularly liable to be spread by the agency of human carriers? State in each case in what part of the body the germs are likely to be carried.

September 3rd.—Describe the causes, symptoms, and nursing of Phlegmasia Dolens.

We regret that we are unable to award a prize this week, no paper of sufficient merit having been received.

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