

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.

ONE OF THE FEW NECESSITIES OF EXISTENCE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I express my deep gratitude to Miss Margaret Hitchcock for her great kindness in securing to me the Journal for still another year. I shall not fail to send her a weekly blessing for it. I am content with the bare necessities of existence, which for me, though few, include the B.J.N.

For your own gracious part in the matter I offer my heartfelt thanks.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
AN APPRECIATIVE READER.

DO AS YOU WOULD BE DONE BY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—I think it would be a great advantage to the sick public if every nurse who "fell sick" were nursed in the general ward of a general hospital, preferably other than her own training school.

She might come away perhaps a sadder, but certainly a wiser woman.

If she struck unlucky, she might learn what tea tastes like made before the water has boiled; how appetising when it is slopped into the saucer; how palatable is bread and butter cut many hours before it is served for breakfast.

She might experience the discomfort of having her face dabbed with a luke-warm flannel and hurriedly and partially dried. If she has a sensitive skin she will remember it.

She may be ordered by an autocratic and pert probationer to keep her bed tidy, and have to wait for the pleasure of that young lady for her humble request to be acceded to.

She may perhaps experience the annoyance of hearing her anxious friends discourteously snubbed if they venture to show any interest in the nature of the illness of one who is dear to them.

She will not have suffered a bitter and humiliating experience in vain if she left the hospital with the old adage stamped on her mind: "Do as you would be done by."

I believe that the majority of nurses have no need of this homely precept; their innate sympathy is sufficient; but, alas, there are many that have, and—

"Evil is wrought by want of thought
As well as want of heart."

I write as one who has been both nurse and patient.

"IN THE KNOW."

THE CONCERN OF ALL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I read with great interest your editorial last week on "The Concern of All," and fully appreciate what must be the result of the teaching in the doctrine of Communism, instilled into children in their early years, if it is allowed to go on unchecked. The responsibility of the vote on Borough and other Councils is evident, and I hope we shall all take it to heart.

To pass from the general to the special. There is one very particular "concern of us all" which we shortly shall have to face. I mean the election of our representatives on the General Nursing Councils. A great deal will depend upon how we exercise that vote, and it is very incumbent upon us to take pains to use it well. So far as I know, it is the first time that any profession of women in the United Kingdom has had so great a power of self-government placed in its hands, and the way in which we use it will be keenly scrutinised. We may make things either easier or more difficult for other professions of women which are as yet unorganised.

Let us acquaint ourselves with the work of the present members of the Councils, which, so far as the General Nursing Council for England and Wales is concerned, we can readily do by studying the very full reports of its meetings in our JOURNAL. I have been deeply appreciative of them from this point of view, and have gained much knowledge from them.

I hope that when we are informed that an election will take place that we shall be ready with a well-considered opinion, and that we shall work hard to secure the election of candidates who will carry on the work of the Council for the benefit of the public and of the nursing profession.

I am,
Dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
A NURSE WHO FEELS HER RESPONSIBILITY.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

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

September 10th.—What do you know of summer diarrhoea, its causes, treatment and nursing care?

We regret that we are unable to award a prize this week. Competitors should read the Rules carefully as some are disqualified through their failure to observe them.

OUR ADVERTISERS.

Do not omit to buy, as far as possible, every thing you need from "Our Advertisers," and to recommend them to your friends. They are all first-class firms.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)