

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.

SOUND ADVICE FROM GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—A friend of mine, who is a three years' trained nurse (at Bethnal Green Infirmary, London) has received an examination schedule of the C.M.B., August, 1921. I was disgusted to find the following statement:—

"CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD, No. 2

" Examination Schedule, p. 6.

" This certificate must be filled up and signed by the Secretary of Q.V.J.I., or by the Secretary of the College of Nursing."

Is this to remain thus?

Now that we have the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. I trust that you will give the matter your kind attention.

Thanking you for your most kind and valuable help on our behalf.

Believe me, Dear Madam, Yours truly,

MARIA CHITSON, M.R.B.N.A., A.R.San.I.,
Trained Nurse and Midwife by Examination.

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[The Central Midwives Board allows nurses holding a certificate of three years' general training as nurses, and certain other defined qualifications to take a four months' course of midwifery training instead of the six months required of women without previous training, but there has hitherto been no legal qualification for nurses which could be recognized by the Central Midwives Board. It is unlikely that as soon as trained nurses are legally qualified and registered, as they will be after July, 1922, any other qualification will be recognized than that of the General Nursing Councils. It will be remembered that under the Midwives Act, 1902, rules framed under Section 3 of the Act are valid only if approved by the Privy Council, a duty now transferred to the Ministry of Health, which, before giving its approval, must take into consideration any representations made by the General Medical Council. When the rules recently approved by the Ministry of Health were under consideration the Executive Committee of the General Medical Council represented to the Ministry of Health "that as soon as the General Nursing Councils are in a position to lay down a satisfactory definition of a registered, fully-trained nurse, that definition should be substituted for the several special definitions contained in (a), (b), (c), and (d)." The Minister of Health has approved the Rules of the Central Midwives Board for one year only, instead of five as heretofore, so that next year we may hope that the concession of shorter training made by the Central Midwives Board to trained nurses will be limited to those enrolled after three years' training and certification on the State Register.—ED.]

LEST WE FORGET.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I make a suggestion that from time to time, under the heading of "Lest We Forget," the B.J.N. publish the Oath of Hippocrates. Now that we are lawful sisters of the medical profession, would it not be well to remind us of the tradition of that profession? A breath of wind from ancient Greece might do much to fill our sails towards the land for which we are all bound—the Rainbow Land of Complete Harmony.

Yours sincerely,

E. PAULINE SHEKLETON.

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KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Miss Gretta Lyons (Melbourne) writes, enclosing her subscription to this Journal: "I simply could not do without it now. I am strongly of opinion that all nursing journals should be controlled and edited by nurses, so that the true facts of their work are presented, and not those seen from medical or lay persons' view-points. For this same reason I have written to a friend of mine in New York and asked her to arrange a subscription to the *American Journal of Nursing* for me."

Miss Anna C. Jammé, R.N., San Francisco.—"I have just read, in the July 23rd issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, of the achievement in opening the State Register for Nurses in England. Needless to say, this news gives great rejoicing to our American Nurses, who have watched with interest their English sisters in their great struggle for legal status. May I, as President of our National League of Nursing Education, offer to you my admiration for your great courage in the battle and congratulations on having won the victory."

[Registrationists will keenly appreciate Miss Jammé's interest and congratulations. As she is herself one of the most ardent workers for organised Nursing Education in the U.S.A., let us hope that she will one day pay us a visit and see for herself, as Professor Nutting has done, the tremendous activity which the Nursing Act is exacting at 12, York Gate, the Headquarters of State Registration for England.—ED.]

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

September 17th.—In what cases may profuse sweating occur as a prominent symptom? What are the causes of this sweating, and what is its special nursing?

September 24th.—How would you prevent foot-drop, acute thirst, constipation, and vomiting after an operation?

October 1st.—What are the principal biting and stinging insects? What diseases do they convey, and with what preventive or remedial treatment are you acquainted?

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