

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.

PHLEGMASIA DOLENS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was greatly interested in Miss M. Bielby's paper on Phlegmasia Dolens, as I am convalescing from it. In my case the cause apparently was a severe "wrench" of the right leg caused by a slip. I found more relief from Antiphlogistine in the early days, and later from Witch Hazel compresses.

Yours truly,

REGULAR READER.

THE HEALTH OF THE MATRONS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have read with regret the report of the serious illness of the Matron of the Royal Free, and with others am pleased to note she is convalescing. In this connection is it not true that present nursing conditions are a terrible strain on hospital matrons? Three of my most valued friends who occupy such positions are at present suffering severely from overstrain, and complain that nursing conditions are such that their personal responsibility and anxiety are more than they can endure. Apparently the causes are (1) the difficulty in procuring probationers sufficiently educated and of high moral tone to train into responsible staff nurses and sisters; (2) the constant worry occasioned by substituting efficient help owing to the trained staffs being so constantly off duty; (3) the poor standard of health of many young probationers; (4) the lack of support on questions of discipline from the committee; (5) the poor, little pensions (if any) assured after a reasonable term of office; (6) the clinging to office after fifty-five for financial reasons. Again, for the future, in consequence of the organisation of standards of nursing education by the General Nursing Council, the Matron's responsibilities will be still further extended, as it will never do for her pupils to fail at the State examination—that would ruin the training school.

Yours, &c.,

HEAD OF A TRAINING-SCHOOL.

[As we have received private letters dealing with this matter—the health of the Matrons—we would welcome an expression of opinion on it from our readers. People have an erroneous idea: once a Matron everything is *couleur de rose*.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

RESULT OF EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

"Want to Know."—"In many institutions the eight-hour day and the day off a week has now been tried for some time. I should be deeply grateful if those Matrons and nurses who have tried it will give the benefit of their experience

through the B.J.N.:—(1) How does it affect the comfort and well-being of the patient; (2) How does it affect the training of the nurses; (3) Does it cause a great increase of expenditure for the hospital."

[This enquirer is a Matron.—ED.]

JUSTIFIABLE PROFESSIONAL ASPIRATION.

A Special Nurse.—"As I am only qualified in the nursing of children, I am now determined to enter a good hospital for general training, so as to qualify for the General Register. At an interview with a Matron I asked if the course would fit me for the State Exam., and was surprised at her reply, to this effect, that the Committee was very averse to State interference; that they had a good system of their own, and that as State Registration was not compulsory they preferred to go on as they were. I told her this appeared to me very unjust to the probationers, and that I could not risk three years' hard work with no professional status or State Certificate at the end of it. I do think the General Nursing Council ought to issue a list of training schools which intend to prepare their nurses for the State Exam. and State Registration, as the majority of young women who apply for training are very ignorant on the question."

[Such a list will be compiled in due course. In the meanwhile let each candidate for training make sure that the Syllabus of the General Nursing Council has been adopted as the basis of instruction before she signs a contract for three years' training. Committees and Matrons are usually extending an appreciative welcome to the Syllabus, many indeed quite relieved that there is to be a uniform standard of education and examination. We feel sure you will meet with sympathy from the majority of Matrons as to your justifiable professional aspirations. Do not be discouraged. Never were well-educated, enthusiastic, sensible girls required in nursing schools more than they are at present.—ED.]

PLEASE NOTICE.

We beg to remind subscribers that the address of the Business Office of the B.J.N. is 431, Oxford Street, London, W., to which all notifications of change of address, &c., should be sent. If sent to the Editorial Office at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W., delay inevitably results.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

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?

October 8th.—What changes take place in the nipples: (a) during the first three months of pregnancy, (b) in the first seven days of the puerperium? Name the complications which may occur during the latter period.

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