

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.

THE TRAINED NURSE AS MENDICANT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I would very much like the views of the "home-trained nurses" upon the subject of a "street collection" for nurses in Durban. Personally I am boiling over with rage at the profession being dragged down to such a level, and quite expect next to see a collection to establish "almshouses" or some such thing for "medical men and women."

It appears the "National Council of Women," South Africa, and the "S.A. Trained Nurses" want to put up a "memorial" for S.A. Nurses who fell during the war, and the brilliant idea has seized the Durban branch to have a street collection to found a "Rest Home" for nurses. To my idea the name is enough. Now, why could not a collection be made from every nurse all over S.A.? Many of the nurses have married very well and could give to it, and if anyone cared to send a subscription they could, and to my idea raise enough to endow a bed in all S.A. hospitals for any sick nurse; this might be wise—it is greatly needed—but a so-called "Rest" Home would never survive in S.A.

Really, one way and another out here the profession is being dragged down, and no longer the high calling it was. Native nurse girls, untrained people, all wear the uniform, and now street collections!!

Your paper is sent out to me regularly by friends, and I pass it on to others—so it travels well. Somehow the home training is far and away better than South African, and I have had a wide and long experience of various hospitals I have been Matron of.

Yours truly,
SOUTH AFRICAN MATRON.

[We most strongly object to trained nurses adopting the rôle of mendicant—or permitting the public to class them as such. Nothing but professional degradation can result from it.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

OPPORTUNITY OF EQUALITY.

Poor Law Hospital Sister.—"We entirely agree with your Editorial last week. For the first time, the Syllabus of the G.N.C. gives us 'Poor Laws' the opportunity of equality in education and efficiency with the leading General Hospitals, and we do hope Poor Law Guardians who really know nothing of nursing curricula will for once leave our education, status and discipline to our own professional Council, and not attempt to

interfere. Things are changing so rapidly in the State Hospital world that before long they will no longer be the refuge of the destitute, but institutions for the scientific prevention and treatment of disease. One of our favourite Guardians here—the kindest of men—keeps a little shop, and I might as well dictate to him concerning the quality of his flour, of which I know nothing, as that he should express an opinion on the details of nursing education and training. We read with amazement the assumption of authoritative opinion as expressed at gatherings of Guardians."

[It will take some time for the laity who govern hospitals and infirmaries—and generally do it very well—to realise "Nursing a Profession," and the rights and privileges we enjoy under the Nurses' Registration Acts. The majority of nurses have not yet grasped the situation themselves.—ED.]

ADVERTISERS PLEASE NOTE.

Miss J. Melita Jones, Nurses' Club, Auckland, N.Z.: "I enclose my subscription to THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, which I appreciate more and more as time goes on. I cannot tell you how useful nurses at a distance have found the various advertisements; speaking for myself I have invariably received full satisfaction for anything procured in this way. I am afraid we do not always remember to mention when ordering that it is owing to the B.J.N. that we are able to do so."

[A large number of interesting letters are held over for want of space.—ED.]

INSPECTION OF ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES.

Nurses who wish to Register can have their original Certificates inspected, and the copies required for filing with their Application Form verified by the Registrar, if they call, during office hours, at the Headquarters of the General Nursing Council, 12, York Gate (opposite Marylebone Church). The original Certificates can then be taken away.

PLEASE NOTICE.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has recently received so many requests from nurses well known to her for permission to place her name as a referee upon their Application Forms for State Registration, with no stamp enclosed for reply, that she desires to notify that unless she refuses such requests the applicants may insert her name on their Forms.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

October 29th.—Name some new appliances used in the care of the sick and how they should be applied.

November 5th.—What is Psychology? Why is a knowledge of it necessary to the nurse (1) for the patient's sake, (2) for her own sake?

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