

## 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.*

## UNSEEMLY REVELS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I read in my evening paper on November 10 of the revels that were to be held on Armistice Night, including the announcement that a "Cease Fire" ball, with a *battle of poppies*, would take place at the Empress Rooms.

My morning paper on Armistice Day, contained the following remarks in a leading article:

"It says a good deal for the character of the British peoples, here and overseas, that they should have consorted to make this day one of Remembrance. It points to a fine sensibility—an awakening to the reality of things spiritual and material. It is a recognition that there is a debt to be paid to those whom "no pain shall wake . . . till joy shall overtake her perfect peace," as well as to the living. We dare not turn our backs on those who have been broken in body or estate by the ordeal of those four years of war any more than we can shut our mind's eyes to all the lonely graves that constitute enduring monuments to the loftiest instincts and achievements of our race.

"This is Poppy Day, when we shall wear the flower of Remembrance. It is the flower that sheds its radiance over the torn and riven fields, where thousands of our dead rest in quiet content. One of them, while the world was still rocking with the violence of war, left us, as a legacy for all time, a warning: 'If ye break faith with us who die, We shall not sleep, though poppies grow in Flanders' fields.'"

What about the fine sensibility of people willing to use "the flower of Remembrance" for pelting one another in their unseemly revels? Cannot something be done by legislation to ensure that such outrages shall cease, that "Remembrance Day" shall be observed with soberness, and that "dancing on the dead" on this day shall for all time be prohibited by law?

Yours indignantly,

"REMEMBRANCE."

## "ASHES TO ASHES."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Thank you for bringing to my notice Isabel Ostrander's "Ashes to Ashes." I am intensely interested in the psychology of crime, and read it with avidity. I intend to take up prison nursing in the future, when I have qualified for it. At present I am attending the Central Criminal Court as often as possible, and studying as carefully as possible the prisoners prosecuted there, taking notes of their physical and mental condition, and making my own deductions from the evidence, irrespective of Counsel. It is most interesting work and I hope to turn it

to good account by and by, as in an enlightened future our prisons must be made more and more refuges for reform, rather than for punishment. Crimes of cruelty to children and animals alienate my sympathies, and I find it very difficult to put out feelers of compassion towards the physically brutal, although such criminals are often less blameworthy and callous than thievish and specious rogues. I am glad to note that the General Nursing Council is not going to recognise prisons as training schools for general nurses, but a course of nursing criminals should be included in the training of prison nurses—a finishing touch, as it were—under highly efficient psychological Sisters. I wonder if the ladies who compose the Voluntary Advisory Board are taking the trouble to study this highly specialised branch of nursing, as I cannot gather that the majority of them have any experience whatever to qualify them for such responsibility.

Yours truly,

A HUMBLE STUDENT.

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE

## CONFUSING THE ISSUES.

*A Country Hospital Matron.*—"I think with you it is high time the College of Nursing ceased to confuse issues. Recently the Committee had before it a letter from the College with reference to recognising this Hospital as a training school. We had also before us the Syllabus of lectures for education in General Nursing issued by the General Nursing Council. Surely it is the latter body which alone has authority to recognise what is and what is not a training school. I had to explain the whole position to the Committee before they could appreciate their position. It really is most unfair. The Matrons have enough to do to get things in order for the State Examination, without the College assuming authority it does not possess. I have applied to be registered by the State Authority, and hope soon to see my name in the list of 'registered nurses,' with Certificate attached."

## ECONOMIC DAMAGE.

*Member Registered Nurses' Society.*—"As a private nurse, may I express the opinion that if my certificate does not appear on the State Register to prove I have been efficiently trained and examined, the doctors will think I failed to attain the training school standard, as certificates of proficiency have been given where I was trained for a quarter of a century. To deprive me of such record of efficiency I consider would damage my reputation and economic position. May I appeal to all certificated private nurses in London to stand together in this matter of such vital importance to us all?"

## PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

*December 3rd.*—What are the channels through which infection enters the body? Describe one infectious disease, the method by which it is communicated, and the nursing care of the patient.

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