

## 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.*

## A CHANCE FOR YOUNG, ASPIRING, ALTRUISTICALLY-MINDED NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—You were indeed right in supposing that I should be pleased at the announcement I read in the Journal this week, *re* the Hospital at Holloway Prison. I rejoice exceedingly at the fruition of my hopes; it seems almost too good to be true! It has come sooner than I dared hope for, because the wheels of the Home Office move slowly! So, now we have the announcement in black and white, "that the Hospital at Holloway Prison is to be staffed entirely by certificated nurses." Here is a grand chance for young, aspiring, altruistically-minded nurses. If I had my time over again, I would apply most gladly for such a position. If I am not trespassing too much upon valuable space, I think the readers would appreciate the following story. A trained nurse of my acquaintance was for six months working in Holloway Prison, with another, as the result of an experiment by the Home Office. On the day she left she found a note on her bed, containing these few pathetic words: "Thank you, Nurse, for being so kind to me." She had nursed this poor girl under treatment for venereal disease. Now we may reasonably hope that the vision of the Editor of this Journal may shortly materialise, namely, the formation of an "Elizabeth Fry League of Prison Nurses," and, let us add, all State Registered.

Yours delightedly,

BEATRICE KENT, B.C.

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

WISH I WAS BLIND.

*Visiting Nurse.*—"I don't know when I felt more indignant than when I read 'An Amazing Experience,' of an ex-Red Cross Nurse, but her experience, I fear, is by no means singular. I often have a few words with the unemployed collectors, and ex-soldier salesmen, in the streets. Here is a true tale:—

"Nurse: 'Had a fair sale to-day?'

"Ex-Soldier: 'Not enough to keep a cat alive; and look at 'em pouring into the Corner 'ouse. I believe these here companies envies me every "choc" I sells.'

"Where are you going to get your Christmas dinner?'

"Oh! me! White'all, o' course! Fat lot of dinner for us down-and-outs. *Wish I was blind*; then St. Dunstan's would give a 'elping 'and.'

"I spent my last penny and rushed away.

*Wish I was blind* kept ringing in my head all day. May I suggest that nurses buy all the 'chocs' and sweets possible for Christmas treats from the sick and wounded ex-soldiers to be found in the streets this bitter weather. And this is England! How are the mighty fallen!"

[Is it? Sometimes when we note the hordes of foreigners to be met at every turn—fat, well-clothed, and ironical—we doubt it.—Ed.]

## REGISTERED UNIFORM AND BADGE.

*Miss E. Macdonald, Farnham.*—"May I, as a member of the profession, heartily endorse Miss Cattell's resolution *re* registered uniform and badge at your meeting of the 18th inst. How important this question is to Nursing Sisters in private practice you know better than I, and perhaps now it may take precedence and be settled soon. I know from the full reports in the B.J.N. how strenuous is the work of the Council—but this is a primary point to us!"

## POOR LAW GUARDIANS DISCOURAGE NURSING STANDARDS.

*Miss Ada Foster, London.*—"I have desired to become a professional nurse now that in the future we are to be protected from the competition of the semi-trained and inefficient nurse, and as the niece of a Poor-Law officer hoped to begin training at a well-managed Poor Law Infirmary, of which I know something. Now, however, since reading that the Guardians are trying to deprive probationers of the Syllabus arranged by the General Nursing Council, I am determined to enter a general hospital where the Syllabus is acceptable. Well-educated young women have waited for years for a guarantee of proper education in hospitals, and now that the Nurses' Registration Act makes this possible, we have Poor Law Guardians (employers of Nurses) opposing reforms. What do the majority of these lay people know about nursing education? And why do they not demand representation on the General Medical Council and the Central Midwives Board, if they have a heaven-born right to dictate to professional nurses on the General Nursing Council? The treatment nurses have received in the past has made girls fight shy of nursing—and now that we see a hope of better things under the Act, we are to be discouraged by Unions of employers in their domineering ignorance."

## PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

*December 17th.*—What are the duties of a Sister Tutor, and how best can she be trained to perform them?

*December 24th.*—Give a general description of the ear. Point out how infection spreads from the throat to the ear.

*December 31st.*—What may give rise to hæmorrhage during the first three months of pregnancy? Indicate the treatment.

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