

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.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

A WORD ABOUT SISTER TUTORS.

Miss H. Griffith writes in answer to the Prize Competition question which appeared on December 10th:—

(1) The Sister Tutor must be capable of teaching in accordance with the General Nursing Council Syllabus.

Her duties are to lecture to first year nurses who are best divided into two classes "A" and "B"—juniors and seniors. Class "A," the junior class, would need the most elementary teaching to begin with. Class "B," who are usually examinees—at the end of their first year—would need more advanced lectures. The Sister Tutor would correct the abstracts written by the nurses after each lecture delivered. Some nurses may require individual coaching—this is done by the Sister Tutor. She also attends *all* lectures given by the Honorary Physicians and Surgeons—usually to second and third year nurses, and corrects the written abstracts of those lectures written by the nurses; and gives special coaching when necessary.

The Sister Tutor holds classes for invalid cookery for all nurses in training—demonstration and practical.

(2) The best training for the post of Sister Tutor is obtained by a special course—lasting one year—at King's College for Women or Bedford College for Women, where the student is instructed in Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Anatomy, Physiology and Domestic Science.

The candidate for this course of training who is anxious to become a Sister Tutor is necessarily a trained nurse.

Additional qualifications such as the C.M.B. Certificate and the C.S.M.M.G. are a great advantage to the Sister Tutor.

"GETTING HO'D."

Miss Ada Martin.—"Do not let nurses delude themselves that because the Nurses' Registration Act is in force their old Anti-registration enemies are down and out. Not a bit of it. Just now they are very active, and anything they can do to obstruct the work of the General Nursing Council they will do. The aim of employers, such as Poor Law Guardians and others, is to secure power on the Council. 'They want to get ho'd,' as we say in Lancashire when an acquisitive neighbour wants what another has got. Why cannot we nurses be left alone, as medical practitioners are, to manage our own affairs?"

[In another twenty years, perhaps, the Nursing

profession will prove capable of managing its own affairs. If so, its members must cultivate a much greater sense of personal responsibility and loyalty to their cloth than they at present possess. They must also take the trouble to understand business and public affairs. This we very sincerely hope they will do. At present their economic dependence places them at a disadvantage, and a very limited number have the courage to risk self-interest for the common good.—Ed.]

A LASTING GIFT.

Somewhat Lonely.—"I don't look to have many gifts this Christmas, so I intend to give myself one, and spend £1 rs. in buying myself State Registration. Much better than gobbling it up."

[Indeed, we agree.—Ed.]

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

In reply to several correspondents who have asked our advice *re* "Where to train," we may observe the matter is simple. The supply of well-educated young women offering themselves as probationers to be trained as professional nurses is unfortunately, strictly limited. The Nurses' Registration Act has entirely altered conditions, and nurse probationers have as much right to know, as have medical students, if the course of training and the educational Syllabus in operation in a hospital or infirmary is calculated to prepare them for the State Examination and to qualify them for State Registration. Let every applicant ascertain from the Matron before signing a contract whether the Syllabus of the General Nursing Council has been adopted by the Board of Management. This Syllabus has been in print for six months, and although not yet officially approved by the Minister of Health, many of the leading Nurse Training Schools have adopted it, and if probationers refuse to enter those institutions which ignore it, standards will be levelled up all the sooner. The "go as you please" policy of Hospital Committees and Boards of Guardians cannot now continue. The matter is entirely in the hands of applicants for training. We draw the attention of our readers to the letter which appeared in our last issue from the Matron of the Paddington Infirmary, and shall be pleased to give publicity to any notification from other Matrons to the same effect.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

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

January 7th.—What is jaundice? In what way do the urine and faeces in this complaint differ from the normal? Describe the after treatment of a patient who has had the operation of cholecystotomy performed.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)