

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.

STREET COLLECTIONS FOR NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Will you kindly grant me space in your valuable paper to try to correct a false impression which must have been given by a letter published in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, dated October 22nd, 1921, and signed "South African Matron." Your correspondent invites the views of home-trained nurses upon the subject of a "street collection" for nurses in Durban.

The Trained Nurses' Association of South Africa are eager to have a war memorial for the nurses of S.A. who laid down their lives in the Great War. The National Council of Women in S.A. have promised to organise the whole of the Union of S.A. and to collect funds for the said memorial.

The members of the T.N.A. have promised to help as much as possible and they will have to decide what form the war memorial will take. But the Durban Branch of the T.N.A. did not organise the street collection—that was done by the National Council of Women and the money so collected was not specially for a "Rest Home."

There is no need to endow a bed in any hospital for trained nurses, they are admitted free of charge to all general hospitals and in most to a private ward if there is a vacancy.

The T.N.A. have already suggested that every nurse in S.A. should be asked to contribute to the war memorial fund, and I have no doubt the nurses will do so, but we are not a large body of women, neither are we rich, and it would be futile to imagine that the nurses could collect sufficient money from their own ranks, to raise a worthy memorial.

The wearing of nurses' uniform by untrained women is not common to S.A. alone; judging from the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, to which I am a subscriber and of which I am a constant reader, it is as common in London as elsewhere! The T.N.A. are doing what they may to remedy the evil.

Further, I would point out that the majority of Matrons and Sisters in the Union of S.A. are home trained, and I personally have not met one who is not striving her utmost to make the training of nurses in S.A. second to none.

I would remind your correspondent that we also have a professional Journal of Nursing in S.A., published monthly at East London, and that the Editor has invited nurses of all ranks over and over again to air their grievances and opinions therein. Had your correspondent done this, it would have been more to the point and served a better purpose than in sending, as she has done,

misleading statements overseas. Her letter reminds me of the old adage: "It's an ill bird that fouls its own nest."

I am home-trained and have been a Matron in S.A. for twenty years.

Yours faithfully,
(Miss) A. GORDON, *Matron.*

Albany General Hospital,
Grahamstown, South Africa.

[With the proposal that there should be a memorial to the nurses of South Africa who laid down their lives in the great War, we are warmly in sympathy; that the public should wish to support a Fund for the purpose is very meet and right, but we have always held that promiscuous street collections for such a Fund are very injurious to the dignity of our profession. It has certainly proved to be so in England, where begging in the streets and mendacious newspaper appeals for professional nurses after the War caused as big a scandal as has ever been hushed up by social influence. If generous people really wish to honour or express gratitude for the work of trained nurses in the War, let them subscribe quietly what they can afford, and remember the injunction in the Sermon on the Mount, "Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth."—ED.]

A MISNAMED FUND.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Can you tell me if there is a report published of the "Nation's Fund for Nurses," and where it can be obtained; also if there is a Committee of Management to which one can apply for necessitous cases?

Being a National Fund, I take it for granted that it is open to all Nurses who are in need of it.

Yours truly,

FAIR PLAY.

[The Fund was established July 2nd, 1917, and the first very inadequate Report only dealt with funds up to 1919, since which time we have not been able to obtain any further printed Report. We hold that the whole management of the Fund, which assumes to be national, should be referred to a Select Committee of the House of Commons, and the Nursing Profession satisfied as to the manner in which the funds—collected from the public in their name—have been allocated.—ED.]

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

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.

January 14th.—How does water become contaminated? What diseases may follow the drinking of impure water? Mention the principal methods by which water may be purified.

January 21st.—What do you understand by hyperpyrexia? State in full the different methods which might be adopted to control it.

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