

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.

FLATTENED OUT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I read the splendid report of the Protest Meeting convened by the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council, and was heartily in accord with all the Resolutions and speeches—especially with that of our dear Miss Breay, most gentle and valiant of nurses, in her detestation of "secret attacks" as "dangerous, treacherous, cruel and un-British," and in her demand that it is high time every penny of that eighteen thousand guineas taken from nurses for State Registration by the College of Nursing Ltd. was "disgorged" and returned to them.

And this leads me to express amazement at the ethical standards which apparently guided the four or five College nurses present who voted against the Resolutions at the Meeting. It is not possible that they could realise what they approved, in voting against the principles incorporated in the Resolutions, unless they were merely inspired by party feeling.

What they really voted for in voting against the Resolutions was:—

1. For depriving some 30,000 nurses of the record of their certificates of proficiency against their names on the State Register in sympathy with the votes of Miss Cox-Davies, Dr. Goodall, Miss Dowbiggin, and Miss Peterkin, and also publicly advocated by Miss Lloyd-Still and Miss Sparshot.

2. In support of neglect of their duties by members of the General Nursing Council for ten weeks—thus wasting valuable time and the nurses' money.

3. For the method of "poison gas" and stabs in the back—practically secret defamation of a colleague's character.

4. For depriving the General Nursing Council of authority to perform its duty to the profession, and accepting the responsibility for the errors of a paid official by constituting the Registrar a Dictator in compiling the Register.

5. For the dissolution of Committees in order to remove from office those members of the Council who protest against the indefensible policy of the ladies of title, parsons, doctors and matrons, and who will not submit without protest to this betrayal of trust.

After having been "flattened out" in hospital for three or four years nurses have not an ounce of courage or conscience left!

At least it would seem so—if the attitude of the College members who attended the Meeting

on February 17th, is typical of their 20,000 colleagues.

Believe me, dear Madam,

Yours sincerely,

MARY BURR, Registered Nurse.

East View, Lydd, Kent.

THE "SPECIAL SCHEME" FOR THE DIRECT REPRESENTATION OF THE NURSES ON THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have carefully scanned the proposed representation of Nurses on the future Council, and I think General Hospital Matrons are in excess. If six seats are allotted to past and present Matrons, why not two for General Hospitals, one for Poor Law Infirmaries, one for the Matron of a Fever Hospital, one for the Matron of a Children's Hospital, and one for the Matron of a Mental Hospital? It seems fairer. Otherwise, unless elected by nurses on the Supplementary Registers there will be no Matron of a Fever Children's or Mental Hospital on the Council. From what I can gather of the feelings of the free nurses they are so angry with the present group of College Matrons on the Council, that they would prefer to have none on the future Council at all. On the other hand, many matrons, especially those in M.A.B. Hospitals, are our very good friends, and we should much regret to lose the services of a woman like Miss Villiers, who has stood fearlessly for the interests of the nurses throughout her term of office.

Yours faithfully,

SISTER FEVER HOSPITAL.

[Since receiving this letter Miss Villiers has been eliminated from the Education Committee of the General Nursing Council, leaving the Fever Nurses with no expert upon it.—Ed.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

WORK APPRECIATED.

Miss Louie Thompson, Tamboers Kloof Nursing Home, Cape Town.—"I have received my Registration Certificate and am very pleased with it. I fully appreciate the way in which you have worked to get this position for Trained Nurses. Please accept my very grateful thanks for all you have so kindly done for us."

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editor thanks Miss K. Eckersley, Miss Nora Saunders, Miss M. Lowe and Miss T. Green, for kind expressions of appreciation of *B.J.N.* when sending their subscriptions. "I appreciate our Professional Journal and all it stands for," writes Miss Eckersley.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

April 1st.—Describe the nursing of a patient who has been operated on for carcinoma of the rectum.

April 8th.—Detail the nursing of a patient suffering from a fractured pelvis. What complications must be looked for, and, if present, reported to the surgeon?

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