

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.

LE ROY LE VEULT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The King wills it. So runs the quaint old Norman French, in which the King's Assent is given to Acts of Parliament that they may become law.

The King wills that the Nurses for the Sick in the United Kingdom shall be raised to the dignity of a *Profession having legal status*. That was the proud privilege conferred by the Royal Assent on Nurses in the House of Lords on Tuesday, December 23rd, 1919.

Members of the Profession sang a Te Deum, hoping that at last they were to be free to manage their own affairs. Their rejoicing was premature, however, and their disappointment is in proportion exceeding bitter now that they find the Medical Profession intend to manage for them. Certificates are at present being sent out to nurses from the General Nursing Council signed by *two medical men* alone; the signature of no one Registered Nurse Member of the General Nursing Council upon them, and this, although the Council has *sixteen registered nurse members*. These ladies are not, apparently, deemed capable of appending their signature to so important a document.

Nurses do not, as a rule, look upon the majority of doctors as their best friends; what, therefore, is their feeling now, when they see their last chance of freedom taken from them, and that even although the King wills that the Nurses for the Sick be raised to the dignity of a Profession, they are only to be a sort of side show to the Medical Profession. Some even want to know whether their Certificate comes from the General Nursing, or the General Medical Council!

The medical men on the General Nursing Council would not be unwise enough to try and force such an arrangement on University Students, or Medical Students, or any other Students, *i.e.*, that Members of another profession, no matter how eminent, sign their diplomas. It is only the unfortunate women who are over-worked and under-fed till they have neither time nor energy to fight their own battles, that can be treated in so contemptuous a manner. Let them remember, however, that but for the College Matrons upon the Council, who have sold not only their own birthright, but that of the rank and file as well, such things could not have been possible, and let them determine to remedy these abuses.

Yours faithfully,

WINIFREDE PAUL,
Chairman Professional Union of
Trained Nurses.

Room 17, Evelyn House,
62, Oxford Street, W.

THE CHARITY TAINT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—The study of the "Ayes" and "Noes" on the annulment of Rules 9A and 43 (2) is most instructive from another point of view. The "Ayes" include seven men of Army rank, the "Noes" 23.

Mr. Lyle, Chairman of Queen Mary's Hospital, Stratford, resents the impression that Matrons are "representing the so-called employers"; so do we. We hold that nursing is the highest profession an unmarried woman can qualify for, seeing its importance to the nation, and that the Matron who is capable of rousing the right spirit for this profession in hundreds of young women whose ideals are most impressionable during their first years in hospital, is worthy of the highest rank in Army or Navy. The trouble is, we wanted the General Nursing Council of England and Wales to be free from politics, just as we considered that a College with real education at heart should be so too. The present "College" has not come up to scratch, and one doubts its influence on the G.N.C. when we consider its Matrons, who should be our leaders, have "let us down" over the "Nation's Fund" on which the College is founded.

Do Army officers with their love of discipline and fair play, approve of the *impression* given by the "Cheero, Nursey!" book, and of the hat being sent round for shillings to the men we'd gladly have died for? making us feel like monkeys on barrel-organs! The Matrons of the College must have felt as we did over the question—they are women at heart. One can only conclude they are *not free women*, or they'd have voiced the matter.

AN EX-MEMBER OF THE B.R.C.S. AND
St. J. A.S. AND Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. (1914-
1919).

The Imperial Nurses' Club, S.W.1.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Old Nurse: The address you require is Hazelwood House, Glasgow; it is the Nurses' Memorial to King Edward. It is to be opened this summer, and terms of admission can be procured from Miss E. E. Taylor, 16-18, Sardinia Terrace, Glasgow, W.

Canadian Nurse.—How delightful to see London for the first time; but to make the best of two weeks you should know a little of its history. Read Burrow's Guide to London; use the top of motor-buses, north, south, east and west, to get a general idea of the vastness of this glorious city; and make plans for each day overnight. To do London thoroughly a year would not be too long, as it is a place to wander in, and not to rush around.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

May 6th.—When a child is in a state of apparent asphyxia, describe how you would endeavour to establish regular respiration.

May 13th.—What are the principal glands of the body, and what are their functions?

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