

## 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.*

## SURFACE NURSING.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I think nothing can demonstrate to the public more effectively the absurd manner in which nurse students are treated than your "Echo," of last week, on Miss Millicent Ashdown's report to the Paddington Guardians. The appearance and smell of a candidate for examination is surely not an Examiner's business, and I have never heard of a male Examiner giving or withholding marks in an examination in the theory and practice of nursing for any such reasons. How many marks would be deducted if a nurse smelt of tobacco—as the majority of medical students do? Or for the heinous crime of powdering her nose? The condition of a nurse's hands should be noted, because she "nurses" with them, and of course she should be neat and clean; but, surely, as you say, these details should be part of the training, and it should be the province of matron or sister-tutor to inculcate these virtues if pupils fail in them instinctively.

But no Examiner has the right to deduct marks in a theoretical or practical examination on nursing because a nurse uses scent.

Personally, I found the use of Eau de Cologne and lavender water most refreshing, especially when nursing malodorous patients, and thankfully laved my face with them and inhaled both. Many girls are very susceptible to stinks, and endure a real martyrdom when emptying bed-pans, spittoons, and cleansing septic cases; many's the time I have retired to be sick.

Let us hope the G.N.C. will not tolerate such childish treatment of nurse students when we have the one portal State Exam.

If anyone is in favour of such fussy nonsense, may we have a list of things which will deprive us of marks in the State Exam. Presumably the use of (1) scent, (2) scented soap, (3) scented bath salts, (4) sachets, (5) tobacco, (6) hair-wash, (7) dentifrice, (8) papier poudrée, would land one at the bottom of the list—even if one scrambled through. And yet all my private patients who can afford them use these toilet accessories every day—and are much nicer to live with in consequence.

Yours truly,

ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS SURFACE NURSING.

## DISTINCTIVE LETTERS FOR NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—It seems extremely desirable that the nursing profession should realise the significance of certain recent proposals of the Registration Committee of the General Nursing Council. This Committee considers it essential that there should be distinctive letters for nurses on the general

and supplementary parts of the Register. It is suggested that the letters S.R.N. (State Registered Nurse) be used by the general nurse; R.M.N. (Registered Mental Nurse) by the mental nurse; R.C.N. by the registered sick children's nurse; and R.F.N. by the fever nurses; the letters to be worn on shoulder straps on the uniform.

As soon as the meaning of these symbols becomes generally known, any patient recovering from an acute infective fever, who seeks a health resort accompanied by her nurse, will have the nature of her late malady revealed to the unsympathetic eyes of the hotel keeper and his guests; while patients suffering ailments of a mental or nervous character will bear with them in public, whenever a uniformed nurse accompanies them, diagnostic information from which we may safely assume the worst possible inference will be drawn by all who see it. It would be superfluous to enlarge on the feelings likely to be in the minds of the nurses thus labelled, and in that of the public, should this ill-advised proposal ever be carried into effect.

Yours faithfully,

M. C. WALSH,

Manager, Mental Nurses' Association.

8, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W.

## REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

To Miss E. B. Kingsford and Others.—The letters you mention were not read at the meeting of the General Nursing Council on June 16th. We know nothing of them. Enquire at the Office, 12, York Gate, Regent's Park, London, N.W.

## NOTICE.

TO NURSES ABOUT TO REGISTER.

Nurses who wish their names to be inserted in the first issue of the State Register must send in their Application Forms at once, and those nurses whose applications have been in the office for some time and who have received no intimation that they have been registered, should ask for information, as names should be submitted to the Council in strict rotation.

No nurse who has not been registered by October 1st next will be eligible to vote for the Direct Nurse Representatives at the forthcoming election, so that there is no time to lose if a nurse wishes to exercise her professional franchise.

Forms should be carefully filled in and the names given for reference from persons who have agreed to supply them.

## WHERE TO REGISTER.

Apply for Application Form to the Registrar:—  
ENGLAND AND WALES—12, York Gate, Regent's Park, London, N.W.

SCOTLAND—13, Melville Street, Edinburgh.

IRELAND—33, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

July 1st.—What do you understand by endocarditis? What are the early and later symptoms? What are the chief nursing points?

July 8th.—What is aneurysm of the aorta? Mention the principal symptoms. State the general mode of treatment and management.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)