

## 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.*

## NOTA BENE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—It is to be hoped that the Nursing Staff of Institutions, other than Mental Hospitals, under the Metropolitan Asylums Board, are satisfied with the hours of duty that have been assigned them. If they are not, they have only themselves to blame. Perhaps they will make a special note of the fact that while their colleagues working in Mental Hospitals have been able, through the Asylum Workers' Trade Union, to have a voice in the settling of their own duty hours, those of the rest of the Nursing Staff have been settled for them by the Medical Officers.

One reads: "The Chief Medical Officers report . . . on the nurses' hours of duty," but apparently no Society of Nurses has been consulted. It is, however, expressly stated that the conditions in the Mental Hospitals under the M.A.B. are the subject of special agreement between the Board, the London County Council, and the Asylum Workers' Union.

If the majority of M.A.B. nurses had been members of a Professional Trade Union, it is not unlikely that they, too, would have had a voice in the management of their own affairs.

MAUDE MACCALLUM,

Hon. Secretary, The Professional Union of Trained Nurses.

17, Evelyn House,  
62, Oxford Street, W.1.

## THE SENSE OF PROPORTION ALL WRONG.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MY DEAR EDITOR,—Surely the psychology of the General Nursing Council has deteriorated to that of a spendthrift Government Department? Otherwise, how can the appointment of a Secretary to the Registrar (not a very responsible position, surely?) at the inflated salary of £250 per annum be reconciled with the fact that we still owe thousands of pounds to the Ministry of Health, which we are at the moment unable to pay? The Registrar may need help, but surely not at this fancy price? No one objects to "helping a professional lame dog over a stile," but don't let us sacrifice honesty to sentiment! There are others!! Some, with longer and wider experience, now disabled, known to the writer, who can scarcely get a living, and who did not enjoy the larger salaries of these latter years. No disparagement to the lady appointed. All honour to her work at home and abroad. But the sense of proportion is all wrong.

I beg to remain,

Yours sincerely,

London.

A. E. MACDONALD (Sister).

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

## THE WAY TO FACE IT.

A Correspondent writes.—"From an article in the *Observer*, by Elizabeth Robins, on 'Woman's Status and Men's Apathy,' I have pasted up the following:—

"The public relations between men and women will be easier from the moment women recognise that men simply cannot as yet feel any genuine sympathy with women's activities beyond the never-denied two. We need hardly say that of these the first is concerned with women's sex functions, and the second with her value as low-grade, low-paid worker. To recognise this without rancour, or even wounded feeling, will be a great saving of time and friction.

"In sum, then, the second hearing (of Lady Rhondda's Petition in the Lords) showed the root trouble to be not that men will not fairly represent women. But that men cannot. The sooner women face that fact the better for both them and men, of whom the impossible has quite unfairly been expected.

"The immediate way to "face it" is for women to bring home to their representatives in the House of Commons the realisation that women voters expect the Sex Disqualification Act to be cleared of the stigma of being a piece of undignified trickery.'

"I advise the same policy with the Nurses' Registration Act. Doctors have no right to dominate nurses on their own Governing Body. The College Matrons who encourage it are not only betraying their profession but their sex."

## 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.

No nurse who has not been registered by September 22nd will be eligible to vote for the Direct Nurse Representatives on the General Nursing Council for England and Wales 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 references from persons who have agreed to supply them.

Do not delay to send in your application forms at an early date.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

August 26th.—What are the principal diseases of the urinary system, and the nursing points you would observe in caring for patients suffering from them?

September 2nd.—How would you deal with a case of suspended animation after submersion in water?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)