

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.

THE ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE; COURSES OF TRAINING.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am sending you a prospectus of the courses of training for Sanitary Officers, Health Visitors and School Nurses and Maternity and Child Welfare Workers arranged by the Royal Sanitary Institute, commencing on September 27th and 29th, which I should be glad if you could bring to the notice of the readers of your paper.

These training courses are of particular interest just now when so many educated women are being appointed on the staff of Public Health authorities, and the demand for trained women appears to be increasing.

The training not only includes Lectures, but practical Demonstrations in the Museum of Sanitary Appliances at Infant Consultations and Child Welfare Centres, visits to public works and other places of sanitary interest, and the use of a Reference Library, Lending Library, and Reading Room.

The Lectures are followed by the standard Examinations of the Institute, which are recognised in all parts of the British Empire.

Yours faithfully,

E. WHITE WALLIS, *Secretary.*

The Royal Sanitary Institute,
90, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W. 1.

SMOKING IN BED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I read in the JOURNAL of August 26th of compensation being claimed by a patient for a sheet which had been burnt by a nurse through smoking in bed. The habit of women smoking is now almost universal, so that one can only speak generally; but it is obvious to any right-thinking person that it is not only dangerous for a tired nurse when off duty to smoke in bed, and risk dropping off to sleep with a lighted cigarette in her mouth, but decidedly dishonourable to thus indulge, either in hospital or at a private case, especially now that it is usually possible for a smoker to have a smoke quite openly. If the habit is so imperative, I consider a nurse should give up the honourable duty of private nursing.

I am, Dear Madam, yours faithfully,

J. C. CHILD, *Registered Nurse.*

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I can sympathise with the Superintendent on the subject of nurses smoking in bed. The habit of smoking is becoming so common that one cannot speak of nurses alone in this connection, but if a thought is given to the practice of smoking in bed will be at once recognised as most dangerous. It should be a

point of honour with nurses not to indulge in smoking whilst employed at a private case and certainly not in bed, where the danger must surely be obvious to all responsible women, as all nurses should be, and they will, I think, agree that a nurse who is a slave to the habit is not justified in taking care of a private case. Certainly, as a Superintendent, responsible to the public, I should not feel justified in sending such a nurse to a case. The risk is too great to the patient, to his house, and to the Society which supplies the nurse.

Yours truly,

"SUPERINTENDENT."

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Health Visitor (London).—"What a joy it was to note that the Ministry of Health and Board of Education are now beginning to realize the importance of attracting trained nurses to apply for positions as Health Visitors, and have modified the training requirements accordingly. On the top of this comes the declaration of the distinguished Committee appointed by the Rockefeller Foundation that "the agent responsible for constructive health work and teaching in families should have completed the nurses' training. Splendid! My B.J.N. these two last weeks made me a happy woman."

Registered Nurse.—"The writer of the paragraph in the *Liverpool Courier* who thinks that high medical information and skill is valuable, but ability in a nurse to do tasks of drudgery are even more important, voices a view of employers of labour, which has been a dominant factor in training for many a long year. If he were suffering from an infectious disease and isolated with a nurse, I wonder which he would appreciate most—her professional skill or her aptitude as a char."

NOTICE.

In supplying notices of appointments the Editor will be obliged if correspondents will state if they are "Registered Nurses," as this legal professional title should now be notified.

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 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 references from persons who have agreed to supply them.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

September 9th.—Detail the nursing of a patient suffering from failing heart, with general œdema.

September 16th.—Describe in detail the preparation of a patient to be operated on for cancer of the tongue. What special points require attention in the nursing after-treatment?

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