

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.

PROGRESS AT THE SCOTTISH NURSES' CLUB.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The members of the Scottish Nurses' Club are now occupying their extended premises. The public opening is expected to take place in October.

The need for the extension has been amply proved by the fact that all the new rooms are already in use, with the exception of the drawing-room. The drawing-room is a particularly fine room, and it has been purposely kept unfurnished so that it could be used for the Sale to be held on September 30th. The sale is for the benefit of the Furnishing Fund, and will be opened by the Marchioness of Ailsa, the President of the Club, on Saturday, September 30th, at 2 p.m. Members and friends are heartily invited to be present.

As the extended property has been bought by the Trustees, and the expense of all the alterations has been met by them (without any public appeal), the Committee of Management decided that the furnishing might be done, as far as possible, by money raised by the united efforts of the Committee and members themselves. The members have responded splendidly, and it is hoped that money sufficient to meet all the furnishing requirements of the Club will be the result of this effort.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET R. STEWART,
Secretary.

The Scottish Nurses' Club,
205, Bath Street, Glasgow.

RESIDENT COTTAGE NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—It is very difficult to devise an alternative in exceptional cases for cottage nurses residing in the homes of their patients, but such arrangements should most certainly only be permitted as exceptions, and not as part of the system. I have supervised such arrangements and they are very undesirable in many ways, and usually male members of the family have to find accommodation outside, or are crowded in close proximity to patient and nurse in such a manner as to make privacy almost impossible. In the future more use will be made of motor-cars for district nursing than at present, and should largely supersede the bicycle in outlying country places. One notices hundreds of runabouts used by every class for pleasure—why not to save the health and strength of the nurse?

Yours sincerely,
A FORMER COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Hard Worker writes: "Before entering for training, which I have done at one of the leading Metropolitan general hospitals, I wondered why so many probationers give in. It is not the English character. Now I know one very potent factor in discouragement—*bad food*. Personally, I intend to stick it, and supplement the larder—as many of us do. The truth is, the price paid for hospital food does not, in these days, secure good quality, which means that which is supplied is not eaten, and down goes the power of push, and body and mind flag. It is not the work which is objected to—most probationers love it. I do; but I can't work on a rotten egg for breakfast, hard foreign meat and half-cooked vegetables for dinner, and some sort of makeshift for supper. I am not making a personal complaint, as I mean to become a Registered Nurse; but, as in France, Germany, and Denmark nourishing and dainty food can be and is provided in hospitals, why cannot it be done in England, in spite of our being the worst cooks in the world. Why do not some of the matrons' and nurses' associations get together and tackle this real grievance."

Miss Susan C.—"I read your article on 'Things Registered Nurses Should Know' in last week's *B.J.N.* with full accord. We do need new blood on the G.N.C. and I hope we shall get it. Many of those nominated to the Council have shown themselves quite devoid of professional *esprit de corps*, as registered nurses could not have been deprived of office and medical members and laywomen elected to chairs to replace them, excepting upon the vote of the College Matrons. And we do want women who have had experience *outside hospitals*, where the tradition that it is contrary to discipline to express an opinion or criticise a superior officer has to be more or less in force. The future of nursing will be largely a social service, and the liberal outlook you mention is seldom obtainable within four walls. Please let us know when we may nominate candidates."

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.

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 30th.—What is the difference between "rheumatoid arthritis," "neuritis," and "rheumatism?"

October 7th.—Explain the effect high altitudes (e.g., the Alps) would have on a patient with a weak heart.

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