

## 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.*

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

## SISTER TUTORS' TRAINING.

Miss Jean Jacomb writes:—"I should be glad if you could give me any information as to the training required of Sister-Tutors. Is there any particular course I could take in London before applying for such a post? I am a Registered Nurse and hold the C.M.B. Certificate." [We advise our correspondent to write to the Dean of King's College for Women, Campden Hill-Road, London, W.8.]

## SCRAPPING THE SYLLABUS OF GENERAL TRAINING.

*A Batch of Pros.*—"We read with alarm in this Infirmary that we Probationers in training—admitted with the assurance that we were to be trained under the Syllabus approved by the General Nursing Council—are, after all, working under a delusion, and we have no security beyond the word of the Matron that we shall be taught according to its provisions. Surely if the Minister of Health is going to turn down the Syllabus for us General Nurses, we have every right to send in our resignations without breach of contract. It seems abominably unfair to all concerned, and surely the General Nursing Council will not be dictated to by Lady Hobhouse (who only knows about the training of cottage and village nurses), two doctors and the Matron of a small country Poor Law Workhouse Infirmary! Why did not the Matrons of the large hospitals and infirmaries on the Council speak up and defend our rights under the Act, after drafting and working on the Syllabus for months? Is it any wonder educated young women are more and more avoiding nursing as a profession? At few of the leading hospitals even in London, is there a sufficient supply of the right sort, as there used to be in the past. We thank you for strongly opposing the proposal to 'scrap the Syllabus' at the last Council Meeting, for that is what was done—in spite of sophistry. And why are we General Nurses to be dictated to by the Medical Superintendent of a Fever Hospital? What does he know of modern General Nursing education? Very little, to judge from the unjust Rule 9A which he was largely responsible for thrusting upon us; also depriving us of a Matron's signature on our Registration Certificates, and now actually proposing that we shall have no guide to our three years' training, and continue to wander in the wilderness of Rule of Thumb, whilst 'specialists' (Fever Nurses, &c.) will be provided with efficient educational guides. Either by affiliation the inefficient institutions must be hauled up to an efficient system, or the larger and complete schools dragged down—as we gather any nurse who passes the examination at

the end of three years is to rank as efficient, whether she has been instructed efficiently or not. Are we to gather from Lady Hobhouse & Co. that *prescribed training* is unnecessary? This comes of removing nursing experts from the Education Committee and substituting the laity and medical autocrats. Until justice is done in this particular by the Minister of Health no woman with an ounce of self-respect and common-sense should apply for training in any hospital whatever. This is the only logical method of expressing our demand for prescribed training and professional education in the so-called Training Schools."

[We share the indignation of our correspondents, without prescribed training and teaching examination is a farce.—ED.]

## NO MEANS TO MAKE LIFE TOLERABLE.

"One who is Interested" writes: "Having read the paragraph in the last issue of the *B.J.N.* referring to the John Howard Homes, it would be interesting to know how a nurse could manage to live on £39 a year, and provide herself with clothing, laundry, stationery, and other minor necessaries, as well as food, fire and light. No doubt the donor intended that the nurses occupying the Homes should live in reasonable comfort, which would scarcely be possible with a weekly income of 15s. Such homes would be a boon to a nurse with an income of anything from £50 to £100, but I fail to see the advantage of living, even in the nicest house, without means to make life tolerable."

## "LET THE SHOPPIES HAVE A TURN."

*A Self-supporting Nurse* writes:—"More exploitation of the Nursing Profession! Miss C. May Beeman—the highly-paid professional organiser of charity functions—is advertising that Victory Ball V. to be held at the Royal Albert Hall in November in support of the Nation's Fund for Nurses! Why not for Shop Girls, as they are eligible for membership of the Nation's Fund for Nurses Cowdray Club, Cavendish Square? Why are Professional Nurses to be always used as the decoy duck by this climbing crowd of society people? Let the 'Shoppies' have a turn."

## 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.

*October 21st.*—Describe the preparation of the patient, after treatment, and nursing, of a case of Hæmorrhoids.

*October 28th.*—What are the four principal causes of maternal mortality in order of importance, and how can they be prevented?

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