

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.

TRAINED ATTENDANTS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

DEAR MADAM,—May I correct a wrong impression which has got abroad, regarding the "Trained Attendants" Class started at the Y.W.C.A., Montreal, and quoted in your Journal?

First, it is not registered, though we aim at legislation to protect it and the Trained Nurse, later on.

These Trained Attendants are given three months' intensive training, following the lines of a junior nurse, but are not given a Certificate until they have given six months' entire satisfaction with the doctors and patients.

They are not allowed to wear white uniforms, but have a specially designed one which has been made as different as possible to the Trained Nurse's.

A pin marked plainly, "Trained Attendant," which they must wear on duty.

They are not allowed to charge more than three dollars a day—a little over half a Nurse's fee.

The Certificate binds them to these conditions, and to take only such cases as they have been fitted for. It is one of our chief objects to protect the Professional Nurse and the public from the so-called "Undergraduate," who is at present taking all kinds of cases in White Uniform and charging a Trained Nurse's fee or nearly as much.

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Y.W.C.A., Montreal.

[The question of the registration of short trained attendants is one which is beginning to cause some misgiving in the minds of fully qualified "R.N.s," both in the United States and Canada. We fear it will ultimately prove disastrous to nursing standards. The medical profession has not, as a whole, sympathised with the three or four years' term of training and registration for nurses, and continues to employ women with much less experience. We should like to hear what our readers think. Personally we are, and always have been, opposed to the manufacture of semi-trained nurses.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

FORTUNATE TO BE PRESENT.

Public Health Nurse.—"I was fortunate to be present at Bedford College on July 6th at the most interesting ceremony when Princess Christian gave the International students their Certificates. What a pity the room was half empty! Many nurses interested in the national health of other nations as well as their own would have loved to

be present. We do need rousing out of our insularity in nursing as in our general outlook, and the masterly address of Professor Gunn might well have been available to many of our Public Health Nurses."

[We have given as much space as we can spare this week to the report of this very valuable address.—ED.]

THE WHOLE THING A SCANDAL.

Jeanne H. Macdonald, Zululand.—"This is just a line to express to you my indignation at the treatment you have received in the General Nursing Council in connection with the Registration muddle. I think the whole thing a scandal and unworthy of the nursing profession. I, for one, will never think of registering in England under existing conditions. My Registration Certificate would mean less than nothing to me without your own signature or that of some other tried and true member of my own profession attached. It certainly would be waste paper with the signature of any lay-woman attached. Please accept my warmest admiration for your pluck and courage through all these attacks."

[In spite of methods universally condemned by honourable people, we still advise those who condemn them to register. How otherwise can we ever hope to build up our profession on worthy principles if the best women remain estranged?—ED.]

STIR UP ABOUT IT.

Would be Registered.—"I sent my Form in for registration months ago, and I have heard nothing since first card. Persons I know who applied later have received cards to say they are registered. I have a three years' certificate of training and am most anxious to be on the first printed Register. Surely, if I am not on I shall have some redress. I strongly object to the Registrar having discretion in this matter—putting on people just as she chooses—and consider the Council to blame for all the muddle. I also object to a medical man in the chair of the Registration Committee. We nurses are treated like worms."

[We can only advise you to write and make further enquiries at 12, York Gate, N.W. If your form and references are in order—and others who have applied later have been registered—you should stir up about it, as no name will appear on the first published Register which is not approved at the July meeting of the Council. Certainly a professional damage to you if you are omitted.—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

July 22nd.—Define (a) simple tumour, (b) malignant tumour, (c) cyst, (d) hæmatoma, (e) abscess. Give examples of each.

July 29th.—What are Vitamines? Why are Vitamines necessary? What conditions are likely to supervene when Vitamines are absent or deficient?

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