

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 OCTOCENTENARY BED OF THE BART'S NURSES' LEAGUE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—My father, being informed of the Octocentenary Bed Scheme for St. Bartholomew's Hospital, has given me £50 for my contribution.

It seems to me that if nineteen other fathers or good people will do the same one Octocentenary Bed will be secured, and all other contributions can be available for a second. So let's try.

Yours faithfully,

ST. B. H. LEAGUE MEMBER.

THE FIVE SISTERS' WINDOW RESTORATION FUND, YORK MINSTER.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The women of Yorkshire are appealing for the sum of £3,000 with which to restore the famous Five Sisters' Window in York Minster as a memorial to nurses and all other women who died in the service of their country during the War.

As we feel that all nurses would like to have the opportunity of sharing in this Memorial to their sisters, we cordially appeal to you to help, by making it known to all Associations of Nurses, or by organising a collection.

Subscriptions great or small are welcomed and collecting cards will be forwarded on application to the Hon. Secretaries.

Yours faithfully,

MARGARET K. STEELE,
Matron, York County Hospital.

ALICE WAINWRIGHT,
Lady Superintendent,
Purey Cust Nursing Home, York.

MABEL P. ELDER,
Superintendent Nurse,
York and District Infirmary.

The Assembly Rooms,
York.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Registered Nurse Pension £1 a Week.—"I notice that the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council for Northern Ireland are advertising for a Registrar at a salary of £109 4s. Surely this is not a living wage for any educated woman, who would be capable of performing the duties, as she should not only be a Registered Nurse, but a woman of business. Compare it with what we English nurses are made to pay—£550 per annum—for the services of our Registrar, with £10 10s. a week sick pay for ten weeks on end! We lifelong nurses, who were paid such poor salaries we could not save, are considered passing rich on £1 a week pension. No wonder nurses are so servile and have sold our

professional independence for a mess of patronage pottage."

SCANDALOUS MISMANAGEMENT OF THE NURSES' STATE REGISTER.

From Mrs. Mary Phelan (née Sutton), New York.—"Before I close my letter, I have a very bitter complaint to make on the manner in which I have been treated with regard to my Registration Certificate. It is now a year since I sent my original certificates of training, filled all forms required, references, and sent my fee. I was written my name would go before 'next meeting.' I wrote in April explaining that I needed my Registration certificate, as I had to leave for America during the summer. Again a reply—my name before 'next meeting.' I wrote an urgent letter and supplication in May, saying that I required my R.C. before I sailed for America. Again reply 'next meeting.' I wrote saying I was leaving for America and gave address, and since then I have heard nothing. I am more disappointed and annoyed about this than I can express. I have longed for years for my Registration. I was one of the first that applied, but was delayed on account of my original copies of training being in a bank in a disturbed district in Ireland; but this aside, all were sent and in order since February, 1922. I am just wondering what I can do, or is there any use in another application; and what about the fee? I beg forgiveness from you to annoy you with this, but if you are still on the Council, can you put it forward?"

[This is only one of many complaints addressed to us, and the mismanagement of our Registration business, and deprivation of our rights granted in our Nurses' Act, prove how disastrous is medical control of nursing organisation. It always has failed (as Miss Nightingale said it would), and it always will. The fact that not one of the candidates for work on the Registered Nurses' Society have been eligible for election, owing to their applications for Registration by the G.N.C. having been deferred month after month, has caused them very serious inconvenience and financial loss. Mrs. Phelan—late Miss Mary Sutton—whose nursing career has brought honour on our cloth wherever she has worked, as Queen's Nurse, as F.F.N.C. Sister in military hospitals, and in devastated districts in France, has just cause of complaint against the bureaucratic incompetence with which her application has been treated at Headquarters. No wonder our stamp bill licks creation. We decline to communicate personally with the Registrar, who has absolute power re registration—according to the Council's Instruction of February 17th, 1922. Perhaps some of the Independent Members of the Council will insist upon enquiry into this and other cases. It is high time.—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION.

March 3rd.—Describe the principal uses of baths, some of the varieties known to you, and the methods of administering them.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)