

## 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.*

## UP-TO-DATE TREATMENT IN MENTAL HOSPITALS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—I am greatly interested in Miss Maxwell Hall's letter last week in our journal on above subject. It is always worth while to hear of the methods adopted in other countries in the various branches of nursing; and, at the moment, our mental branch is very much in the public eye.

We cordially greet our American cousins, and congratulate them on their up-to-date methods in mental work, so graphically described. Our knowledge regarding the treatment and cure of nerve and mental ailments has advanced during the past eight years; and the best that is known to-day is being incorporated into that treatment. I have visited great mental hospitals in England and nursed in Scotland, where all the curative measures quoted are practised. The "Prolonged Baths" are no new treatment of mentally sick folks in these Islands. To my accurate knowledge, that wonderful and effective treatment has been practised in Scottish mental hospitals for the last fifteen years. It is also used in the progressive English mental hospitals. All the other remedial measures, including electrical treatment, massage, X-ray, &c., have been added as these evolved in mental science.

The Villa System, whereby patients are classified and treated according to the nature of their mental disease, was instituted in Bangour Village, near Edinburgh, nearly twenty years ago. The Hospital was so-called because of its detached dwellings, covering a wide area; Bangour was the first mental hospital in Europe built on that plan.

In none of our great mental hospitals is there any difference in the treatment of paying and non-paying patients—indeed the former are only known to the heads of the hospital.

As to non-certification of nerve and mental patients, there is at least one large mental hospital in Scotland (there may be others), and numerous up-to-date private hospitals and nursing homes in Britain, where patients are received voluntarily, treated and cured without certification.

The general public are viewing mental illness in a broader and more common sense light in these latter days, and realising it is just as reasonable that a man's brain and nerves should get run down as other organs of his body. I fear this letter is already too long. Thanking you for your ever ready interest in our branch of nursing,

I am, Dear Editor,

Yours very faithfully,

A. E. MACDONALD  
(Sister).

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

## JUMBLE SALE FOR NURSES' BOOTS.

*Professional Nurse, Brighton.*—"In the *Brighton Gazette* a letter appeared from 'M. Winifred Cox,' headed 'The Queen's Nurses,' which begins:—

"It is at this season of the year that the Queen's nurses benefit financially from the proceeds of a Jumble Sale. The Committee feel that last year's success was largely due to your valuable help in permitting an appeal for them. Money is badly needed at present to enable the Nurses to carry on their work of relieving the suffering of the sick poor in Brighton and Hove. The Committee, therefore, beg all householders in Brighton and Hove to help the Association by sending contributions of money, clothing, boots, and household goods and everything they can spare for this excellent cause."

This letter is very badly expressed, and my patient naturally asked, 'Are Queen's Nurses in Brighton so badly paid that they have to be clothed through a jumble sale?' I explained that it was not the Nurses who benefitted by a jumble sale, but the Association's Funds, and that they paid for their own boots."

## THE DEPRECIATION OF PRIVATE NURSING.

*Member Bart's League;* "As a thoroughly trained and certificated nurse engaged in private practice, I do not intend to recognise Miss Geraldine Bremner as my 'representative' on the G.N.C. How like the College—which poses as protecting the three years' standard—to consider an uncertificated nurse good enough to 'represent' the most responsible branch of nursing! I shall watch through the B.J.N. to see what this lady does in mitigation of private nursing abuses. Let us hope she will at once bring forward the money-grubbing in support of public charity, through the private nursing staffs run by hospitals—and the foisting of semi-trained nurses and V.A.D.s on to an unsuspecting public in many private nursing homes. I wonder how suggestions for reform in these particulars will be met by the College Matrons and their supporters, who, apparently, are anxious to scrap the poor little one year's standard which qualifies for registration at present."

## 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.

IRISH FREE STATE—33, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.

NORTHERN IRELAND—118, Great Victoria Street, Belfast.

Forms should be carefully filled in and the names given for references from persons who have agreed to supply them.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION

*March 17th.*—Describe the nursing of a case of enteric fever. What complications may arise, how would you endeavour to guard against them, and what would you do if they occur?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)