

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.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I point out to the writer of last week's Prize Article that Encephalitis Lethargica is absolutely distinct from the Sleeping Sickness caused by infection with the parasite *trypanosoma Gambiense*, and is not in fact Sleeping Sickness at all! True Sleeping Sickness is a tropical disease, characterised by a progressive lethargy and enlargement of all the lymphatic glands. It is conveyed by the Tse-tse fly.

What the modern lay journals are calling Sleeping Sickness is actually more nearly allied to Hydrophobia in its clinical manifestations. And the one certain thing about Encephalitis Lethargica is that the specific micro-organism has *not* yet been discovered. It is also quite often the cause of most intractable insomnia.

Yours truly,
G. F. S.

(Late Demonstrator in Bacteriology at
King's College for Women.)

[We quite agree with our correspondent. We do not, however, think that the writer of the article on Sleeping Sickness last week intended to convey that *Encephalitis Lethargica*, popularly known as Sleeping Sickness, which she described as an acute specific fever characterised by acute febrile disturbance, is the same as the Sleeping Sickness chiefly confined to tropical Africa, and conveyed to man by the bite of the *Glossina Palpalis*. The fact that she mentions that the channel of infection of *Encephalitis Lethargica* is thought to be the respiratory tract in most cases, seems to make this point clear.—ED.]

THE GRADING OF HEALTH VISITORS AND SANITARY INSPECTORS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—At last it would seem Nurses were beginning to take an interest in their own affairs. That this is very necessary is proved by the case of the grading of Health Visitors and Sanitary Inspectors.

It having come to the knowledge of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses that it was proposed to grade Health Visitors lower than Sanitary Inspectors, the Union immediately sent the following letter to the Minister of Health and to the London District Council of the Whitley Committee, protesting against such grading:—

"DEAR SIR,—My Union has been informed that the Scale of Salaries recommended by the London District Council of the Whitley Committee as a minimum for negotiations are:—

Sanitary Inspectors .. £190 by £10 to £300.
Health Visitors .. £150 by £10 to £25c.

"I am instructed to enter a protest, on behalf of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses, against the grading of Health Visitors lower than Sanitary Inspectors. Many trained nurses who are acting as Health Visitors have the C.M.B. Certificate and that of the Sanitary Institute as well, and yet it is proposed to grade them lower than Sanitary Inspectors, who have only that one qualification.

"I enclose the Scale of Salaries of this Union, to which we hope you will give consideration.

"Yours faithfully."

MAUD MACCULLUM.

Until Nurses organise properly and manage their own business, they will be continually treated in this way.

MAUD MACCULLUM,
Hon. Secretary.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

To Miss Julia Morgan.—We regret we cannot put you in touch with anyone likely to be of use to you for the purpose you name.

To Miss Amy Gordon.—We sympathise with you, but fear the timorous policy you have adopted hitherto has cut the ground from under your feet so far as any chance of redress is concerned.

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.

NOTICE TO "EXISTING" NURSES.

Under the Nurses' Registration Acts it is provided that within two years after the date on which the Rules made under the provisions of the Act come into operation, nurses engaged in practice before November 1st, 1919, who produce the evidence required under the Rules, may register without examination.

The last dates on which applications from Existing Nurses can be received are:—

England and Wales—July 14th, 1923.
Scotland—July 29th, 1923.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

April 14th.—Give an account of (a) the complications, (b) the nursing, of a case of tuberculosis of the spine.

April 21st.—Describe (a) the symptoms, (b) the nursing management of a case of concussion.

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