

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.

OUR DUTY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Although great advances have been made in the diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases, especially syphilis, many hospital authorities have not yet realised that a nurse's training should include experience in the treatment and nursing of these diseases. Most large hospitals have venereal disease clinics and departments which could be much more extensively used for the purpose than they have been hitherto.

There is considerable misunderstanding amongst nurses as to the infectivity of these diseases and the personal risks incurred in carrying out treatment and attending to persons suffering from them. Syphilis and gonorrhœa are contagious, but there should be no danger if all necessary precautions are taken.

It is only by including venereal disease experience in the training of nurses that we shall get rid of the old idea which is still prevalent, that it is no part of a nurse's ordinary duty to attend to persons suffering from syphilis and gonorrhœa. Our duty as nurses is to do our best to relieve suffering wherever it may be.

Unfortunately, a large percentage of patients discontinue their treatment before they are cured, and it is in this connection that a tactful and sympathetic nurse may be able to influence the patients, especially the women, to carry out the doctor's orders and attend regularly for treatment.

Yours faithfully,

MAUD M. TIPPER
(Registered Nurse).

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

THE EFFECT OF BUREAUCRACY.

From Several Correspondents.—"If it was no that I am determined to avail myself of my rights under the Nurses' Registration Act, I should have withdrawn my application to be registered by this irresponsible Council months ago. My form has been in the office five months."

"I have been registered two months, but no certificate so far."

"It is a pity there are not more Male Nurses. They would not sit down and wait six months to be registered, as we women sheep do. The whole tone of the G.N.C. Office is one of unmitigated arrogance—from an old man who opened the door and who argued with me concerning my professional affairs, to our highly paid boss!"

"I never intend to enter the G.N.C. Headquarters again. I was offered a seat in the outer lobby, and kept waiting half-an-hour. On the

opening day, how different the whole place looked—the Nurses' waiting-room was specially charming. Considering we pay for the whole show, it is an outrage to treat registered professional women like dogs at a club or shop. My Form has been in four months and, so far, not a word."

[We believe there are some six thousand nurses at present deprived of their right to be registered, whose applications are presumably still awaiting the recommendation of the Registrar—under the Cox-Davies Instruction giving that officer entire power. Considering the huge clerical staff of 30 persons paid for by the nurses to help Miss Riddell to perform her duties, the delay is as inexcusable as it is scandalous.—ED.]

TEACHING MUST BE THOROUGH.

A Sister-Tutor.—"Whilst congratulating our American Sisters on the wonderful appreciation of their work in the States—and the recognition of progressive nursing education—by such splendid endowments as you report, I do hope American Schools of Nursing will hesitate to decrease the term of three years' training. I am in touch with nursing efforts in America and France—and do deplore the tendency to be content with a two years' term of training. So many branches of work now need practical and theoretical study—to make the efficient all-round health promoter and sick attendant—that teaching is scamped unless ample time be given to study. I hope we cling to our three years' course!"

THE TIME IS SHORT.

The General Nursing Council for England and Wales reminds Nurses that every person who desires to be Registered as an Existing Nurse must apply before July 14th, 1923, after which date no application can be entertained.

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 QUESTIONS.

June 2nd.—What do you understand by a diphtheria carrier? What are the possible causes, and how are they to be guarded against?

June 9th.—What are the principal causes of nutritional disturbances in the breast-fed infant, and what measures are taken to overcome them?

June 16th.—What is Insulin? How is it produced? How does it affect diabetes?

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