

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.

A SODA SOAK.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I offer a word of warning regarding Miss M. Ramsey's recommendation to soak the feet in water to which washing soda has been added.

Those who have the most sensitive feet usually have also the finest skin, which suffers from the effects of soda as a baby's skin does when its garments are washed with that agent. "Little cracks under the toes" are often due to the use of soda.

Personally, I cannot put even my fingers into the weakest solution of washing soda without injury to the skin.

I am, Dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

M. M. G. BIELBY.

Cranford, Middlesex.

[Feet, like doctors, differ. The Editor must confess that she has found great relief to tired feet from a soda soak.—ED.]

PRAISE BE FOR MARGARET BREAY.

Member Bart's League.—"May I endorse every word written by 'International Spirit' about Margaret Breay. She is not only a noble woman, but one of the most brilliant reporters and journalists of the day. What other amongst the thousand members in our League can touch her mentality? No one! We can never pay our debt to her, but many of us do appreciate her goodness and talents."

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

REGISTRATION IN VICTORIA.

A Victorian Nurse writes: "After some worry, I think I can safely say there appears every hope of our Nurses' Registration Bill being brought forward this Session; in fact, as I told one member recently, if the Act is not passed soon there will be no nurses to put on a register. In all parts of the State there appears a shortage of candidates offering.

"I think it is as well this is so, then when there are not sufficient nurses to nurse the sick in public hospitals, there will be raised such a hue and cry that in all probability the cause that girls are not coming forward will be probed, and irritating conditions remedied, and so perhaps with an Act in force, will issue in a new era for the profession.

"I am really discouraged by the 'don't care' attitude of nurses in general. It has often been stated a general training takes out all individualism from the trainee. From the mild manner they take

insults from lay folk these days, I am inclined to consider the cause proved.

"In Victoria most nurses are really under the dominion of the medical profession, and this is the point that makes it more than difficult to help them to organise, and work in their own interests.

"Though both professions are interdependent on each other, it is quite possible where work is concerned, to work as a whole.

"I never consider a medical man competent to decide upon ethics, discipline or such intimate questions as arise in every nurse's dealings with the world in general.

"With us, nurses are far behind other women in organisation, and consequently their standing and salaries likewise have suffered.

"I was rather disappointed to notice your references to the two women M.P.s. May not the divided ranks of the nursing profession, one quite under lay-control, account for the non-interest in their affairs by the women representatives? Of course, on the other hand, you know better than myself; is it a case of snobbery?

"From what I hear, Mrs. Phillipson has plenty of brain power, and her own struggle to reach the top as an actress may give her a good insight into women's working conditions.

"I can scarcely believe you have three women M.P.s. We, in Victoria, haven't succeeded yet in removing the bar to their entrance in our State House."

REGISTRATION OF INTERMEDIATE NURSES.

The only Nurses who are now eligible for registration are what are termed Intermediate Nurses—those who have completed their three years' training and been awarded a Certificate since November 1st, 1919. The term of two years' grace for Existing Nurses has terminated.

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.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

September 22nd.—What are varicose veins? How are they caused, and how treated?

September 29th.—Show how the tooth brush may carry infection from a diphtheria carrier and how it should be disinfected. What other articles may become vehicles of infection, especially in schools?

October 6th.—Describe a case of phlegmasia (white leg), with regard to onset, symptoms, treatment, and subsequent history.

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