

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.

CRYPTAESTHESIA, AND ALLERGENS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In regard to your editorial of September 29th, I should be very grateful to those nurses who may encounter cases of *Cryptaesthesia*, and *Allergens* if they would be good enough to send me data for the purpose of tabulation, of course, obtaining the permission of an adult patient. All serious students of astrology know that the so-called "sixth sense" includes all three outer bodies of the subject—physical, astral or feeling, and mental. It is simply a matter of development in evolution, and is becoming increasingly frequent. Such development, or "sensitiveness," is indicated by the horoscope of birth.

The data required is sex, date, hour, minute of birth, with name of birthplace or its longitude and latitude. Specify nature of abnormality. The line of medical research in astrology yields valuable results and is of great antiquity.

There is no belief higher than the truth. Even Kepler admitted that his study of changes occurring in the heavens in their influence on human lives had "instructed and compelled his *unwilling* belief."

I am, dear Madam, yours faithfully,
MENA M. G. BIELBY.

Cranford, Middlesex.

THE TRAINING OF MIDWIVES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am very pleased to see in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING so full a notice of the extremely important Report by Dr. Janet Campbell on the Training of Midwives. It is full of points and recommendations, which Midwives will do well to study, and most of which they will heartily endorse.

The recommendation that the training of midwives should be extended to twelve months, which has recently been under the consideration of the Central Midwives Board, is one which will be heartily endorsed by all the most thoughtful midwives, and if adopted will bring us more nearly into line with other countries; we shall still be behind France and Belgium with a training of two years, and Holland, where the training is for three years.

The restriction of the training in this country to six months, and until comparatively recently three months, has not been in the interest of the pupils in training, or of the midwifery service in general, but in that of the midwifery training schools, which, in the past, have been largely financed by the fees paid by pupil midwives. A much sounder policy would be to train the pupils for a longer period and charge lower fees in view of the increased value of their services.

From the point of view of the pupil, considering that both ante-natal and post-natal instruction is usually, and should be always, included in her training even a year is all too short; and I hope that before long the term of training may again be increased so that we may approximate to that enforced in the best training schools in Europe.

Yours faithfully,

CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

"A BIT ON."

A District Nurse in the North: "You invite expressions of opinion on nurses betting. One thing I can say, and that is betting is very prevalent amongst nurses as amongst the public generally. In my opinion, it is a vice trying to get money easily without working for it, and I am glad to know some nurses have lost heavily and have given up what they term 'the excitement.' 'Life is so fearfully dull,' I have heard nurses say. 'I must get a bit of excitement somehow.' Up here the fact that the first prize of £10,816 in the St. Leger Sweep, organised by the Old Swan Conservative Club, Liverpool, was won by a midwife who had been a parish nurse of Barrow-in-Furness, was sure to have an ill-effect upon others who usually drudge for a few shillings weekly, and earn just enough to cover the cost of a simple living, without any 'frills.' Quite children 'have a bit on' in my district and take their gains and losses without turning a hair. If any Betting Bill is introduced, I hope it will provide penalties for betting with boys under age."

NURSES' INTERESTS IGNORED.

Registered Children's Nurse: "I am thankful to note Miss Bushby seems alive to our interests, but what were the other 'independents' on the Council doing at the last meeting of the G.N.C. not to support her and claim our *right* to a Syllabus of Training? Since we lost you and our few stalwarts on the Council, our interests have been entirely ignored."

PLEASE NOTICE.

An old pupil now working in the United States would like to get into communication with Miss E. Norton Coleman, formerly Matron of the Eversfield Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, West Hill Road, St. Leonards. If any reader can furnish Miss Coleman's address to the Editor she will be obliged.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

October 13th.—In a Children's Ward how would you deal with: (a) Scabies; (b) *Pediculus capitis*; (c) Thread worms in rectum?

October 20th.—Describe a model theatre for gynaecological operations, and what it should contain?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)