

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.

PRACTICAL APPRECIATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MY DEAR EDITOR,—It was very kind of you to let me have the copies, which I missed of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and I thank you very much for them, they are now placed among their fellow copies, and I am very glad to have the Journal complete from the very first number.

May I add my congratulations on account of your thirty years' editorship, no doubt you will feel most happy at having been able to continue your work for so long a period, and I wish you many happy working years yet. I also wish you to see State Registration of Nurses in full working order before long—and in many countries.

Might we once meet again!

I am, Dear Mrs. Fenwick,

Admiringly and affectionately, Yours,

CHARLOTTE NORRIE.

Store Kongensgade 92,
Copenhagen,
Denmark.

[It gives us the sincerest pleasure to know that Mrs. Norrie has now a complete file of THE NURSING RECORD AND BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING (of which a few copies were missing during the war). Mrs. Norrie has bound with her own hands in beautiful crimson leather nearly the whole seventy volumes. This is practical appreciation of which any Editor may well be proud, as we are.—ED.]

TOO OLD AT FORTY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

DEAR MADAM,—It is becoming a fixed idea that nurses are "too old at 40"; everywhere one sees advertisements, "under 40," "not more than 35." I cannot see the reason, unless the matrimonial eye with which young nurses regard eligible males is the underlying point. I began my training late and perhaps for that reason feel as young as I look. But I have felt this "too old at 40" atmosphere lately. I went as Charge Sister to a Convalescent Home in Scotland, where the Matron was very young, and probably jealous of my experience. Now I am in a Convalescent Home where the Sister is young and inexperienced and *very* clever. I came as a "trained" nurse, as I wanted a rest after a strenuous period of work, but I am evidently a back number as I trained some years ago; am not trusted with dressings, after four years' Army service, and have been *instructed* in all my simple duties.

FORTY-ONE.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

A MESSAGE OF THANKS.

C.M.B., *Snethwick*.—"I enclose cheque for 8s. 8d., as twelve months' subscription for THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, to be continued and sent to the above address. Particularly I enjoy the articles on Psychology, and "The Book of the Week," and the whole spiritual tone of the paper, besides the practical parts; one always feels helped in all ways by it. I send a message of thanks each time I read it to all who help to compile it."

THE NURSE PAYS.

"S.R.N. with No Work" writes:—"More plucking of the G.N.C. pigeon for officials! I note that Miss Cox-Davies in 'her' report of the General Purposes Committee at the G.N.C. Meeting, is agitating for Pensions for her 'official' friends in the office. We Registered Nurses who work twice as hard for half the pay we give the Registrar, and senior officers, will, of course, be called upon to pay these Pensions. As the present Registrar was past middle age, and her best working years long passed, when she was elected to her present position, at a salary of £550 a year, she has no right whatever to a Pension—as it was not included when she was appointed—but the very high salary paid instead. Also we Registered Nurses often work night and day, whilst the G.N.C. office staff only works for 6½ hours for five days, and 3 hours for one day a week—making 35½ hours a week. Holidays are also generous, with all the extra Bank Holidays, and extra days, thrown in I calculate the Registrar has a full seven weeks off duty annually at full pay, besides odd hundreds for sick pay! How much more money are we poor 'out of works' to subscribe to the outrageous cost of our office? We have not yet forgotten the 'Interviewing Officer' job—at £5 a week—a sinecure soon abandoned when the rank and file applied for it! I have just had call three for a Retention Fee, which I do not intend to pay—to be mixed up with 'Gamps.'"

[We consider, that before thousands of pounds of the Registered Nurses' money is ear-marked for Pensions for officials, they have a right to be consulted about any scheme proposed. So long as 43 officials have to be paid—as against about half-a-dozen in the General Medical Council, and Central Midwives' Board offices, and first-class fares for all Examiners (the examinees would, of course pay their own third-class fares) have to be paid—it is little wonder that nurses disapprove of £7 7s. examination and registration fees to be charged in the future, if these are to include pensions they cannot afford for themselves.—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

December 15th.—Detail the nursing, including the diet, of a patient suffering from failing heart, with general oedema.

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