

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.

PRIVATE NURSING.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am in hearty agreement with all that your correspondent in the June issue of the *B.J.N.* says on the subject of Private Nursing and cordially support the suggestion for a Conference. I should like to propose that, to one Session of such a Conference, Hospital Governors and members of the public should be invited, so that they should hear what we have to say, and, I may say, so that we may hear what they have to say about us. A good many opinions are expressed about private nurses, after they have left their cases, which never reach the ears of the Societies to which they belong. They may, or may not, be justified, probably some are and some are not, but unquestionably the popularity of private nurses is on the down grade and the public think us an overpaid class. My own opinion is that there are some nurses whose services can never be remunerated in hard cash, however highly they may be paid, but there are others, whom I have myself met, who I should say would be overpaid at any price, and how they managed to pass through three years' training and to get through examinations is beyond my comprehension to fathom.

I am looking to the General Nursing Councils to weed them out in the future, and trust I may not have put my trust in a broken reed. Lately, having read carefully the Reports of the meetings of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, it has seemed to me that the trend of the Council is not to *help* the Registered Nurse but to keep her in subjection. I may be wrong, but that is my impression. Any way, I should very much like to have a Conference at which to discuss our professional and economic interests, and hope that you, dear Madam, will further this desire, as I and many others always regard you as the real champion of nurses in this country.

Yours faithfully,

REGISTERED NURSE.

"PATTERNS OF INFANTS' CLOTHING."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In a recent issue I note a letter extolling the superiority of "Glaxo" paper patterns for infant clothing. Might I draw your attention to the patterns now so widely approved, as designed and advocated by Dr. Truby King, C.M.G., Director of Child Welfare for New Zealand? These patterns are now issued by the Royal N.Z. Society for the health of women and Children, in an envelope bearing their red seal—the cost is 1s., postage extra. These patterns are the outcome of 20 years' experience in this kind of work, for which New Zealand is justly famed. Descriptions and photographs of the clothes are to be seen in the N.Z. Official Guide, "The Expectant Mother and Baby's First Month," 20,000 copies of which were printed outright in Sydney lately, the English issue is now on the market and costs 2s. During the last eleven months 1,059 copies of Dr. King's books were sold in Cape Town alone. Both books are now being translated into Africaans.

I am, &c.,
J. B. N. PATERSON.

Glasgow.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

NURSES' EDUCATION UNDER THE ACT A FARCE.

Enquirer.—"I have been making a few enquiries at various hospitals, as to the influence of the G.N.C. on Nursing Education—and at three institutions was informed that, although preparing Probationers for the State Examinations, the hospitals were not bound to give any 'prescribed' curriculum of teaching; indeed, all seem to go as they please, trusting to lenient examiners to pass their pupils through. How very unfair this is to the nurses. Why is the G.N.C. permitted by the Ministry of Health to ignore the rights of the nurses under the Act?"

[Just so long as women have not the conscientious courage to demand and fight for their rights—under the Registration or any other Act—they will be treated with the contempt they deserve by domineering men and well-placed, self-interested members of their own profession. Until the "prescribed scheme" of training—granted in the Act—is in force no standard of real efficiency will be enforced. At present the whole system is merely permissible—and a farce.—ED.]

Doctor's wife trained nurse.—"In this county the County Nursing Associations are still persuading young women to train on terms which will exclude them after years of work from the Nurses' Register—of which they are apparently quite ignorant. Surely such insufficient training should not be financially supported by State grants. I for one object to be taxed to delude young girls—as sooner or later they will find themselves in a very false position. My husband has made himself very unpopular by objecting to "Society's" system of nursing the poor. We both think Queen's Nurses' standards should be enforced. Successive Ministers of Health appear very ignorant and negligent on this question of inferior standards of nursing being provided for poor people—whose health is their only asset."

[We have always pleaded for *efficient* nursing for all classes.—ED.]

WHERE TO REGISTER.

Apply for Application Form to the Registrar:—

ENGLAND AND WALES—12, York Gate, Regent's Park, London, N.W.

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Forms should be carefully filled in, and the names given for references from persons who have agreed to supply them.

ADDRESSES OF BRANCHES FROM WHICH 'THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING' CAN BE OBTAINED.

The Press Printers, Ltd., 69, Long Acre, London, W.C.

The West End Office of the JOURNAL, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.1.

Messrs. E. & R. Garrould, 150 to 162, Edgware Road, London, W.2.

Mrs. Clark, 49, Weymouth Street, London, W. (close to the West End Nursing Homes).

We invite those who appreciate THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING to *work* to increase its circulation.

NOTICE.

We are always glad to receive newspapers containing items of interest in regard to hospital and nursing affairs, but will our kind friends *mark* the paragraphs to which they desire to call our attention. Sometimes this is not done, and it is quite impossible to read through the whole of a paper in order to discover the reason for which it has been sent.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION FOR AUGUST.

How can bacteria be destroyed: (a) on the skin, (b) in cotton or linen fabrics, (c) in wounds, and (d) in the blood?

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