

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.

WHAT I HAVE I HOLD.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MY DEAR FELLOW NURSES,—We used to be told in our childhood that patience is a virtue. That cannot be denied, but it is only half the truth; it is often not a virtue, but a vice. Brave natures are usually patient under private wrongs of their own, but they would count it no virtue to be patient under the wrongs of others—classes, professions or bodies of people. I submit that it is the duty of every trained certificated Nurse, with a sense of loyalty and *esprit de corps*, to become increasingly impatient over the administration of our Act. It is ours by every right. We have worked for and paid for it. Its purpose and principle has always been: (1) *To protect the Sick Public*; (2) *to safeguard Trained Nurses*. All Nurses who have read the Act and pondered over its clauses—and let us hope that there are none who have not—know that these principles are embodied in it. The Administrative Authority of the Act is the General Nursing Council.

What a tremendous responsibility is implied by those two words, *Administrative Authority*! We had hoped that the G.N.C. would have fully realised this great responsibility, and that they would have administered the Act; in other words, that they would have kept the Law. What do we find? The solemn Act of Parliament, which ought to be as inviolable and sacred as the pledged word, is broken whenever it suits the majority on the G.N.C. to do so. What is lacking? A sense of honour, surely. But we who have the professional franchise are not without responsibility. I repeat, the Act is ours, and it is a matter of duty, on our part (and not of opinion) that we insist that every clause of the Act shall be faithfully obeyed. Would it not be well, my dear Nurses, to read the Act constantly? Look at Section 3, subsection (2) (a). There you will find that it is "required as a condition of the admission of any person to the register that that person SHALL have undergone the prescribed training." Shall is the word, not may.

So do you not see that a prescribed training is your absolute right? You are being denied your right.

By submitting to this, you are doing an injustice to yourselves, and also to the Nurses of posterity, for whom you are, in a sense, the Trustees. The prescribed training laid down in our inviolable Act, is a standard of efficiency, the hall mark of the genuine State Registered Nurse of the present, and the future. Are you not going to fight for your rights? Are you going to be satisfied with mediocrity? Mediocrity is a crime to the enlightened mind. Uphold the Royal Standard of your Act. Do not submit to those who would lower it. Demand of your representatives that they do what you elected them to do namely, Keep the Act—your Act—inviolable, and the Register pure.

This is a matter which seriously concerns the economics of working Nurses.

BEATRICE KENT, S.R.N.

President, Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

NURSES KEEP YOUR SOULS ALIVE.

Miss J. C. Child, S.R.N.—"The B.J.N. came this morning. What a splendid encyclopædia! Certainly it contains enough to keep our souls alive. We owe you and Miss Breay much elixir of life in our professional world.

Judging from the first number, you have neither of you been saved any work."

Miss Joan Peters.—"A thousand thanks, dear Editors, for grand monthly issue of B.J.N. If the production of such a journal spells rest, I should like to know how it is done. Writing a letter takes me quite a bit of time."

E. G. Barton, Alexandria.—"I much regret the Journal is to be monthly instead of weekly, but can only feel most grateful to the Editors for having worked so long and arduously in the cause of Trained Nurses. The journal is a very great help to me, as without it one would lose touch with the Nursing World, and I am sure my regret is shared by all Nurses and Sisters working abroad."

THE G.N.C. BADGE.

A Registered Private Nurse.—"I called at the office of G.N.C. to see Badge. Registrar out; no specimen on view. Why not? Because our hopeless representatives are reported to have chosen our poor little "button" on paper, that is no reason why it should not be at Headquarters for us to see before we order it."

[Certainly, the Badge, and when the uniform is ready—all should be on view for Registered Nurses to see.—ED.]

PASTURES NEW.

Mrs. Mary Sutton Phelan, Brooklyn, New York.—"Though I shall miss the Journal greatly every week—it meant so much to me in exile—yet if by its monthly issue life holds a little more leisure for you, that suffices to reconcile me to its loss. How can we ever thank you for all the years of work and struggle you gave to us? If the British Nurses are where they are to-day, it is to you—only you—and your loyal and devoted helpers that the result is due.

"You will be interested to know that I am at present taking a Course in Teachers' College, Columbia University. It has always been my ambition to do so ever since I followed with interest the accounts of the Courses in the B.J.N. many years ago now. Years have passed over my head and left their traces, and though there are difficulties, not the least that of adjustment to a new country, surroundings and people, yet I feel such love and pride in my profession that it only needed time and opportunity to renew again all my old ambition and enthusiasm. Having completed the active part of my nursing life, I hope to render it still more complete by the Courses I am now taking. I am coming in daily contact with most intelligent, charming women of our profession from various countries, this making life most interesting to me.

"We are looking forward to seeing Miss Nutting after her serious illness—a great loss to the College. Miss I. Stewart, of course, you know—a veritable inspiration to all nurses. The Professor and adviser to the Public Health Department of Nursing—Miss Hudson—is a truly beautiful woman, mentally and physically. The Nursing Faculty in Teachers' College is really 'l'âme' of the place."

[The quite wonderful work of "Sister Sutton" when on the French Flag Nursing Corps was an inspiration to every colleague in France, and earned the gratitude of every patient she attended, and the affectionate regard of all in authority. Still thirsting for pastures new to conquer! So like her.—ED.]

NOTICE.

The March number of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING will be issued on February 29th, so should reach subscribers on March 1st.

We learn that subscribers through newsagents did not receive their copies till several days late. Subscribe direct through the Office, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.1, and be sure of receiving the Journal on time.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION FOR MARCH.

Explain what is meant by Angina Pectoris. What would you do to relieve a patient in a spasm from that disease? What preventive measures should be used by one who is subject to attacks of Angina Pectoris?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)