

## 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 QUESTION FOR THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I should be glad if you would publish the enclosed statement in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. I begin to feel that my position on the General Nursing Council representing organised mental nurses is not an enviable one. If one desires to attempt to protect the interests of the working nurse one is insulted by the College Matrons, and bullied by the chairman and medical members on the Council. I have recently been reprimanded in committee by the Registrar, Miss M. S. Riddell, and if I dare to make any comment on the report of the General Purposes Committee I am intimidated by the Chairman of the Committee, Miss Cox-Davies.

I remain, yours sincerely,

MAUD WIESE.

## STATEMENT BY MISS MAUD WIESE.

I desire to make a statement regarding the letter from the Ministry of Health on the agenda of the last meeting of the G.N.C. The motion of censure of which I was the subject was discussed *in camera* and I am anxious that my point of view should be known. The member of the Mental Nursing Committee who gave the information which was published in *The Nursing Mirror* was not dealt with.

My letter published in *The National Asylum Workers' Magazine*, a private journal, having no circulation in general hospitals, and issued free to our members (with a few exceptions) and not registered as a newspaper, was dealt with; the chairman behind my back, complained to the Minister of Health, and I was to be censured by the Council. The information contained in my letter, which did not include the name of any particular matron or hospital, I attempted to discuss in Council so that it could be published but was prevented from doing so by the chairman, and as I considered the information was of vital importance to mental nurses I wrote to our Journal.

Mental nurses have always been practically ostracized by general hospital matrons. This did not matter very much until the mental hospital authorities only promoted those nurses who held a general certificate to administrative posts in their hospitals.

Mental nurses who have done splendid work in the past but are now too old to take further training have reached a blind alley in their work. In 1921 Mr. Keene, chief officer of the L.C.C. Mental Hospitals, wrote to the General Nursing Council stating that some of their best nurses, who held the M.P.A. certificate, were anxious to take a general certificate and he hoped that a two years' course of training could be arranged for them, as it was very difficult to spare them for three years. In 1923 Mr. Keene wrote again and was informed that the G.N.C. had passed a rule allowing the shortened training. The only difficulty then was to discover matrons willing to accept mental nurses.

When I was elected to the Council about this time I raised the question in Council, and was informed that the Education Committee would deal with it. Two months elapsed and nothing happened. I again raised the question, and it appeared that no one knew to what I referred until the chairman of the Education Committee (Miss Lloyd-Still) admitted that the matter had been overlooked!

Eventually matrons of general hospitals were approached, with the result now known.

Under these circumstances I was unable to say that I considered the result satisfactory when only 22 matrons of the 233 applied to agreed to accept mental nurses; and 104 did not reply at all. I am told that I am doing mental nurses considerable harm by my methods. This does not convince me that I am wrong. Reforms never come by sitting down to wait for them; one has to press for them.

Moreover, the members of the Council who neglected their public duties and held up the work of the Council for ten weeks undermined all discipline in the conduct of business—when they were permitted to return to duty by Sir Alfred Mond, without explanation or apology to the nurses for their unconstitutional conduct.

MAUD WIESE.

Claybury Mental Hospital,  
Woodford Bridge, Essex,  
February 22nd, 1924.

## GLAXO PAPER PATTERNS ARE VERY SUPERIOR.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In your February issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING you ask for expressions of opinion *re* patterns for infant clothing.

It is my experience that the Glaxo paper patterns are very superior to all others. Some of them show quite novel and unique ideas. Naturally the comfort and well-being of the infant has first consideration, but the mother has not been forgotten. The patterns all provide economy of material and labour. The completed garments are easy to put on and fasten. They give suitable covering for all parts of the child, and allow him ample muscular activity. They are dainty in appearance and easy to launder. Both patterns and garments made from them can be seen at Glaxo House.—Yours truly,

L. E. SHERLIKER.

47, Mark Lane, London, E.C.4.

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

## NURSING IN RUSSIA.

Miss Muriel A. Payne, of the International School of Nursing and Child Welfare for Russia, 20, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1, writes:—"Some further delay seems to be inevitable before the Unit for training Nurses in Russia can be sent out. In view of this position the Committee have decided that it will best forward the immediate interests of the scheme if, in the first place, they commence by training two or three Russian women in nursing in this country. Arrangements are already being made for securing the services of the first of these ladies.

"It is intended to secure women who will already have received nursing training in Russia, and who will be able to speak English. These ladies would then form part of the Unit which it is hoped will proceed to Russia at a date not too far distant.

"The Committee trust that sufficient funds may be received in the near future to enable them to train one or more of these Russian women in this country, as well as to despatch the Unit in due course. For this purpose they earnestly beg the continuance of your support and interest, and thank you for your help in the past.

"Any further information will gladly be supplied by the Honorary Secretary, 20, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITION FOR APRIL.

On visiting a woman four days after birth of her child you discover that she has a temperature of 103° F. What conditions may cause such a temperature, and what other symptoms would you expect to find in such a condition?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)