

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 BENEVOLENT FUND FOR OLD MEMBERS OF THE N.U.T.N.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Will you very kindly allow me to make known through your columns, the existence of a Benevolent Fund for old Members of the National Union of Trained Nurses. The capital is in the hands of duly appointed Trustees, and the interest is administered by a body consisting of members of various branches of the Nursing Profession, with a sympathetic knowledge of the difficulties of nurses.

There are no administrative expenses (beyond small sums for printing and postage), and the money goes straight to those who from age, sickness or other adversity are in bitter need.

Some of the cases are heartbreaking, and I feel sure that if the Fund were known to all your readers—old members of the N.U.T.N. and others—that they would be glad to help.

Subscriptions, however small, will be gratefully received by me.

I am, Dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

The Grange,
Kingston, Taunton.

E. L. C. EDEN.

THE SHORTAGE OF PROBATIONERS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The following incident throws some light on the trend of modern girlhood as well as offering a solution of the question of probationer shortage, and several other questions which will occur to the intelligent. I was waiting for the bus to start, and our conductress was chatting with a visiting conductress from another bus, both were attired in last season's fashions, much the worse for wear.

VISITOR: "Hullo, I thought you had gone to be a nurse."

OUR CONDUCTRESS: "No, I got the papers to fill up, but mother did not want me to go so far away from home, and besides, it's almost as trying as this."

I am, Dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

M. E. HANCOCK, S.R.N.

South End, Durham.

FLATS AT MODERATE RENTALS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—My attention has been drawn to a paragraph in the June number of *Nursing Echoes*. The paragraph quotes a letter from *The Times* bemoaning the shortage of flats suitable both in size of room and size of rent for members of the Nursing Profession.

The Women's Pioneer Housing, Ltd. (of 92, Victoria Street), buys freehold or long leasehold town houses and converts them into flats varying in size. The arrangement of the flats is necessarily governed by the existing management of the whole house, but it is usually found possible to make one or two flats of a size and at a rent suitable to the professional woman with the minute salary at present paid to the majority of nurses.

Our highest rent at present in the sixteen houses we have filled is £135 per annum, and the lowest is £30 per annum. The average house contains six flats at annual rents of £90, £80, £70, £40, £35 and £30.

The Women's Pioneer Housing adjusts the rents in each house subject only to the cost of purchase, conversion and actual running expenses, and a maximum 6 per cent. on capital subscribed to cover the initial outlay.

The Committee serve voluntarily, feeling that the provision of decent house accommodation for professional women is work well worth doing. The Manager and Secretary, Miss Browning, who was the originator of the Society, has given five years of steady, unselfish work to bring it to its present sound position, and only asks for more and still more capital for the development she desires. The office expenses are kept at the lowest possible figure.

The main aim of Women's Pioneer Housing is the provision of houses where women of small means can have their own furniture and belongings, where they can live in their own way and where they can be dependent only on themselves.

We have many more applicants than we have been able to deal with, as for each house we want to buy we have first to find the purchase money. Perhaps among your readers may be found those who are in a position to invest in Women's Pioneer Housing, and so to help to provide homes for the women who now suffer in and out of all kinds of lodgings.

The general waiting list of applicants for flats is already painfully long, applicants for Shares and Loan Stock are what we really want (dividends of 6 per cent. have been paid on all shares since the first year after the formation of the Society, which is registered as a Public Utility Society). The Committee of Management would, doubtless, also be glad to receive capital ear-marked for the purpose of providing flats for members of the Nursing Profession, and either a whole house could be set aside, or one flat reserved in each house for letting to nurses.

The Financial Editor of *Time and Tide* has more than once spoken in favour of this investment, not because it promises large financial returns, but because it does promise a steady and reasonable financial return combined with the moral satisfaction of seeing professional women housed as they would wish to be housed.

Yours truly,

HELEN A. ARCHDALE,

Chairman, Development Committee, Women's Pioneer Housing.

92, Victoria Street,
London, S.W. 1.

COMING EVENTS.

July 17th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Meeting at 20, Portland Place, 2.30 p.m.

July 20th–25th.—International Council of Nurses. Meeting of Grand Council and Congress, Helsingfors, Finland.

July 24th.—St. Marylebone Hospital. Distribution of Prizes to Probationer Nurses by the Right Hon. Neville Chamberlain, M.P., who will also open the extension of the Nurses' Home, Ladbroke Grove, W.10. 2.45 p.m.

NOTICE.

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PRIZE COMPETITION FOR AUGUST.

How would you know that a patient was suffering from an overdose of (a) Arsenic, (b) Opium, (c) Salicylate of Soda, (d) Insulin, and what would you do pending the arrival of a medical practitioner?

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