

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.

INSPIRING, EXHILARATING AND AMAZING.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The news contained in the Editorial of the May issue of the B.J.N. was as inspiring and exhilarating as it was amazing! So amazing in fact, that I almost expected to wake up next morning and find it was not true! But after rubbing my eyes, I find it is nothing less than a *glorious truth*. I am glad in the first place, on behalf of the whole Nursing Profession; secondly, I rejoice with those who do rejoice, namely, yourself and Miss Margaret Breay, whose self-sacrificing devotion to the cause of Nursing and Nurses is known and gratefully acknowledged by the Profession. I desire *above all things*, to express my most sincere admiration and gratitude to the munificent donor and benefactor, who has placed in our hands such wonderful opportunities.

I earnestly hope that we may—every individual—prove worthy of the great responsibilities which these opportunities imply. The solemn declaration which every Fellow and Member will be required to make, is like a modified form of the great classical Hippocratic Oath, which I have often dreamed should be taken by every fully trained certificated Nurse.

BEATRICE KENT, S.R.N.

ONE UNITED MAGNIFICAT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—My first impulse on reading May's B.J.N. Editorial was to write for an application form almost before I had finished—in spite of the guineas! When one looks back to those early days, after leaving one's training school, at the various organisations joined, all good, all the pioneer work of the best in the profession—who says guineas! When I read the Editorial through twice, like a child I felt almost too bewildered with that elated feeling of joy to do anything. One *would* like to know the name of the man or woman of vision who has placed this wonderful thing before us. An organisation of our own which recognises God by its opening prayer, and governed (under Him) by those *within the ranks*, and, as Mrs. Strong writes: "Nothing wanting but a whole-hearted support from the Nurses." The answer, and so much more, to prayers of years. It has just dropped from the skies and we thank the Giver of all good gifts, and the large-hearted donor who has been His instrument in bringing this thing to pass. As Mary, chosen of all women, in her ecstasy of joy over the holy charge given her, uttered that Magnificat, so from the hearts of those who have ever realised the sacredness of the charge given them in the care of the sick, seems to come one united Magnificat or Te Deum as this unexpected joy within the profession has been revealed. The hearts of many who have worked so long and so strenuously on behalf of trained nurses may well have failed them as they looked on at clouds getting bigger and blacker till things seemed almost beyond hope, but, as expressed in the Editorial, "a Higher Power has guided its destiny, and that, even when the prospect seemed darkest." One would like every nurse to ponder well over Miss Isabel Macdonald's words: "There are other developments, yet unthought of, in which nurses, having imagination, can become pioneers, can gather the fruits of their own efforts and their own capacities and at the same time extend the borders of their profession."

The trained nurse does not exist who will diagnose or prescribe, but surely the time is long overdue when the

borders of her profession should be extended; when each one will make full use of the initiative she possesses, and of those gifts which, in a more or less degree, are the peculiar heritage of every woman, so that the sick, and the community at large, may benefit. The necessity for an infinitely closer connection between patient and his or her home in *every branch of nursing*, where circumstances, environment, hereditary instincts, &c., count for so very much, creates a sphere which surely no one is so fitted for as a trained nurse with her skilled sense of observation.

To those who believe in the Divine inspiration of Scripture, and prophecies foretold there regarding this "time of the end," surely this new thing which recognises the Creator will play no small part. Chaotic confusion in some countries, smouldering fires in others, a new tolerance and spirit of inquiry among the Jews towards Christianity, who are hastening back to Palestine, the revival of Hebrew which was almost a dead language, Mussolini appearing on the horizon as seventh Emperor of Rome, and knowledge increasing.

There seems to be a more marked "line of demarcation" between right and wrong, and so, for the Higher Power which has brought us this new way, we would praise Him again and yet again for it.

Yours faithfully,

NORA M. MACDONALD.

"Underwood,"
Alfred Street,
Dunoon.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

CHILDREN'S SALE FOR SICK CHILDREN.

B. F., from Newcastle, writes:—"You will be interested to hear the children made over £60 at their Sale for the Fleming Hospital. We have also made over £160 with the Cookery Book, and are very pleased with the result."

Antoinette Schuller.—"I have just heard the grand news. . . . It is like a beautiful fairy tale, only more beautiful because it is true. . . . Every blessing on this new great adventure."

Margaret M. Cornoch.—"The Editorial seems too good to be true—and fills me with new hope. All honour and deep gratitude to the generous benefactor, whose splendid gift enables a cherished dream, that we should one day have a Self-Governed College of our own, to be realised."

Frances Dunne.—"Only to-day I saw the splendid announcement in the B.J.N. In any case, whether a Foundation Fellow or Member, I will certainly do all I can to further the success of the British College of Nurses."

Margaret D. Ball.—"I have just read the leading article in B.J.N. . . . It is a most wonderfully generous benefaction to which I sincerely hope every member of the Nursing Profession who is eligible will readily respond."

F. C. Bell, A.R.R.C.—"I shall be proud to belong to the British College of Nurses. It is most wonderful and glorious that we are, after all the long struggle, to, as it were, enter into such an inheritance."

NOTICE.

We have had a large number of complaints from nurses who state that they are unable to obtain the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING through their local newsagents. Far the most satisfactory manner in which to receive a monthly Journal is to obtain it direct from the office. Our readers will find a subscription form on page iv of our advertisement columns.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR JULY.

Mention some of the causes which predispose to cerebral hæmorrhage. Describe the principal points to be observed in caring for a patient suffering from this condition and the nursing care.

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