

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.

AN EXPRESSION OF THANKS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—May I, through the medium of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, express to the Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association my heartfelt thanks for the beautiful wreath which they sent up for my father's grave. I cannot thank them individually as those who subscribed preferred not to give their names. The lovely spray looked like a gleam of sunlight on the mass of heather, but it was that last which pleased us most, for it is the badge of the Clan Macdonald and I heard my mother say that she felt as though he lay like some old-time chieftain of his clan under that beautiful gift from the nurses. In my memories now of "The Bonnie Lochside" (as the townfolk call their burial ground which, far from the town, looks out on the Scottish hills and stretches of loch) there will always be something that is "for ever England"; and flowers that, hitherto, have been the symbol of long tradition, of a grandeur of song and story, of many a dark tragedy too in the wars of the clansmen, have, for me, gathered to themselves yet another association. Into their symbolism there has entered that of the beautiful thoughtfulness and kindness of the Members of the R.B.N.A. to which, in these particular flowers, they gave exquisite expression.

I am, Madam,

Thorton House,
Milnathort.

Yours sincerely,
ISABEL MACDONALD.

AN APPRECIATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—I wish to convey to you personally, and to Miss Breay, my thanks for the very excellent and comprehensive report given in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, regarding the visit of Princess Mary here on June 7th. I am sure that the prominence given to the event in the pages of our journal will be of the greatest assistance to us in our endeavours to secure for the Mental Nurse her proper place in the ranks of her profession.

Yours very sincerely,

E. L. MACAULAY, *Matron.*

Kent County Mental Hospital,
Maidstone.

AN OPENING FOR WORK.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I think that some of your readers might be interested in a possible opening for work with the Society of Friends in the Balkans. The Bulgarian Red Cross has great need for the assistance of fully trained nurses in developing infant welfare work and elementary teaching in hygiene in the country districts. Owing to the sad conditions under which the country has been for some years the infant death rate is appallingly high and the authorities are doing all they can to remedy it, but the present financial position does not allow of their developing such work as they wish. The Society of Friends has raised funds to feed the refugee children in the poorest districts last year and is anxious to follow this up with assistance of the welfare work if we are able to raise the money.

We should be very glad to hear from any nurse with suitable training and some knowledge of French or German

who is genuinely interested in international good will and would feel in sympathy with the pacifist point of view of the Society of Friends.

Yours faithfully,
HILDA CLARK, M.B., B.S.Lond.

Chairman of the Near East Committee of the Friends' Council for International Service.

Friends' House,
Euston Road,
London, N.W.1.

A QUESTION FOR HOSPITAL COMMITTEES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was astonished to read in the report of the proceedings of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales the statement of Miss Armstrong—in support of her contention that nurses should take their State Examination before leaving their Training Schools—that if on night duty in a fresh institution there would be no one interested to see that a nurse had sufficient rest before taking her examination; and that another member of the Council said she was by no means sure that all hospitals were able to give nurses on night duty a night off before they sat for the State Examination.

Is it conceivable that hospital committees know that such a state of things is possible, and if the Matrons do not find themselves able to make other arrangements, could not the Committees be memorialised; or would not some Member of Parliament take up the question? When so much depends for a nurse upon the issue of the State Examination it seems grossly unfair that she should take it with the handicap of exhaustion after a night on duty.

Is it too much to expect the General Nursing Council to take steps to protect the nurses in this matter?

Yours faithfully,

INCREDIBLE.

NOTICES.

R.B.N.A. SUPPLEMENT.

To avoid, as far as possible, curtailment of the Reports of the Interim Congress at Geneva, it has been decided not to insert the R.B.N.A. Supplement for the current month.

ISABEL MACDONALD, *Secretary.*

ORDER EARLY

As this issue of the B.J.N. is being eagerly requisitioned, those of our readers who wish for extra copies should order them *at once* from the Manager, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING Office, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1. Price 7d.

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Is the Official Organ of The International Council of Nurses in Great Britain. The National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain. The British College of Nurses. The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. The Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council. The Registered Nurses' Society. The Official Supplement of the Royal British Nurses' Association is incorporated in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR SEPTEMBER.

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