

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.

NO CONNECTION WITH THE ROYAL SUSSEX COUNTY HOSPITAL, BRIGHTON.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—May I ask you kindly to assist me through the valued columns of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING to correct in the minds of many of your readers an impression that no doubt has been formed from recent reports in the London and Local Press.

It has therein been stated in great prominence under the heading of "Nurses sent to Prison for Shop-lifting" that two Nurses from the (Royal Sussex) County Hospital, Brighton, pleaded guilty at Marlborough Street on the 23rd instant to stealing articles worth £25 3s. od. from a West End Store while "up for the day" from Brighton, one of the Nurses being 18 years of age.

These Nurses have no connection whatsoever with this, the only Sussex County Hospital; and further we should not wish it to be thought that we take ladies for training at that age.

While the Press in question will have no doubt corrected the error at our request, many of your readers will have heard of the report and not seen any correction.

A short note in your columns briefly protecting many Nurses trained at this Hospital from the suggestions that may unfortunately emanate from the report would be indeed most helpful.

I am, Madam,
Yours faithfully,
S. WILLIAMS.
Matron.

December 28th, 1926.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

GREETINGS AND GOOD WISHES.

L. L. Dock.—"All good wishes for the JOURNAL Staff. Greetings to the 'Unknown Donor.'"

THE BETRAYAL OF OUR MORAL STATUS.

S.T.J.—"I was horrified to read of the action of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales in leaving a thief's name on our State Register of Nurses. Surely the public have a right to protection from such people, even if the rights of registered nurses are ignored. We expect little from the present G.N.C., and thousands of nurses are dissociating themselves from its jurisdiction by not paying the Retention Fee. This last betrayal of our moral status is an outrage, and I do hope our Nurses' College will fight it out for us in Parliament and in public. What are the College of Nursing members doing by way of protest, many of the Matrons on their Council are also in the G.N.C., so presumably approve of the injury done to us."

THE NURSING TRADE.

H.H.R. writes.—"My attention has been drawn to the enclosed paragraph: 'A Trade Union for nurses is suggested in a report to be presented to a Conference of Nursing and Kindred Organisations, to be held at the Caxton Hall, in January.'

It speaks for itself. It would be interesting to know by whose influence the Labour Party is stimulated thus to champion the cause of the Nursing Profession, or shall we say 'the nursing trade?'"

[We learn that the meeting alluded to is to be largely attended by representatives of Nurses' Organisations. This is wise—as discussion is to be invited. Our experience proves that the Nursing Profession as a whole has no inclination to organise a Trade Union, but that the more thoughtful class of nurses do earnestly desire "self-governing organisation," through which to express their conscientious convictions without the interference of non-professional persons. This demand has now become possible through the British College of Nurses, which

every intelligent Registered Nurse should join, support, and help to manage. There is now no necessity for substituting the word "trade" for profession, but the more active spirits in our ranks have lost patience with the "herd" system and the lack of moral courage amongst large sections of Nurses, who, apparently, prefer to be spoon fed and "done for."—ED.]

PLUCKED, AND NO WONDER.

Fellow, B.C.N.—"I hope when the B.C.N. gets into its stride, it will resuscitate the demand for justice to Nurses in training, and take active steps to claim their right under the Nurses' Registration Act to a "prescribed" curriculum of training. Things are very unjust left as they are. My sister has been plucked, and no wonder, the hospital in which she was trained was accepted without inspection by the G.N.C., and there is no Sister-Tutor or prescribed system of training whatever. Waste of time and disappointment, and most unfair."

[The B.C.N. intends to do all in its power to procure justice throughout the Nursing Profession, and certainly the right to efficient teaching (as examination by G.N.C. is practically compulsory) is a question with which it will deal in the future. The G.N.C. has the support of the Ministry of Health, and the College of Nursing, Ltd., in its refusal to comply with the clear intention of the Act in this particular.—ED.]

THE USE OF HANDKERCHIEFS.

Health Visitor writes.—"Are handkerchiefs out of fashion? In buses, public places of amusement, and elsewhere, many persons have apparently discontinued the use of the handkerchief. Such persons think nothing of coughing, sneezing, and snuffling without the precaution of the use of a handkerchief. Can we wonder 'flu' and catarrh of every description becomes widespread. Recently being unable to escape a shower of microbes, I offered a clean hanky to a woman in a bus. Nothing but insult for my pains."

EVERYTHING COMES TO HIM WHO WAITS.

Sister-Tutor, F.B.C.N.—"The whirligig of time is indeed bringing round its own revenges. I read in the D.T.—that stickler for nursing bureaucracy—that Matrons are actually at last approving short hair for nurses, and soft collars and other civilising and hygienic influences. Wonders will never cease. It is good news that Nursing Uniform is to be *en evidence* and discussed at the Interim Conference on Nursing at Geneva in July. We hope the National Council of Great Britain will have all sensible modern improvements in a nurse's dress to show. Would it not be a good idea for each country to show a Nurse doll up to date—the most hygienic to be awarded a prize?"

ANTI-COMMUNIST.

A sound old Tory Nurse writes: "Surely our Government is dealing in a very feeble manner with Cook the Communist whose farewell message to comrades in Russia is surely high treason. The message contains the following passages: 'You won the revolution through blood.' 'What you have done we must do.' 'May the English revolution come soon.' Does Mr. A. J. Cook mean that he invites Englishmen to decoy our Royal Family to an awful doom, and butcher them wholesale as Russian murderers swept away the Imperial Family of Russia? And is not such an incitement treason and punishable as such? In my opinion it is. That this bloodthirsty Communist is permitted to incite to murder is proof of amazing weakness on the part of those who have the safety of our Constitution in their keeping. We Constitutionalists must be up and doing to mark our horror of 'revolution through blood.'"

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Will those concerned kindly note that Magazines intended for the International Council of Nurses should be sent to the Secretary, I.C.N., 1, Place du Lac, Geneva, and not to 431, Oxford Street, London.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR FEBRUARY.

What dangers attend an intravenous infusion? What are a nurse's duties in preparing for and assisting with such an infusion? What would you record after the treatment?

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