

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.

HANDS ACROSS THE SEA.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

On Board the Cunard
R.M.S. *Laconia*.
April 21st, 1928.

DEAR MRS. FENWICK.—A mail will be taken off at Queens-town to-morrow morning at six o'clock so I am taking this, my first opportunity, to write and try to express my sincere appreciation of the many pleasant and profitable things you and the College placed in our way during the time Miss Morrison and I have been in England. I had meant to write you from Liverpool, but staying with friends bent on entertaining me every moment, made it impossible to do so.

I feel that I have gathered a good deal of valuable information on general nursing affairs, but particularly do I feel I gleaned such a splendid harvest of public health knowledge.

To Miss Hale I owe a good deal as she was untiring in her efforts in making arrangements and plans for my visits to the places where I could get the best experience. Miss Pearse was a well of information. I felt that one conversation with her was an education, and I had several conversations!

Our farewell dinner, dear Mrs. Fenwick, was a superb ending to our very happy visit to London. I certainly shall never forget the marvellous dinner itself, nor the happiest of spirits which pervaded the whole party, everybody seemed so thoroughly happy and congenial. The whole event was one of the pleasantest of my experiences. What a party it was! I shall never forget it. Not the least of the pleasures of the evening was the evidence of your thoughtfulness in having the orchestra play "O Canada" and "The Maple Leaf for Ever." I did think that was nice. But the whole affair was so delightful. I do hope we shall be able to give you one half so much pleasure when you come to us at Montreal next year.

I am exceedingly proud of my Fellowship diploma. It is very handsome and means much. I feel that the British College of Nurses having the high ideals it has, is assured of a great future, and, I trust, in my time. Nursing organisations and institutions should stand on their own feet and not lean on other people and other professions. In order to be self-respecting and to get the sincere respect of the world, the nursing profession should be free, independent and strong, able to cope with and handle its own problems and affairs. Since the nursing profession in England is so strong numerically, it should also be a very strong and influential body if united and loyal to one great purpose and the highest ideals. The British College of Nurses, I know, stands for all this. May it grow and prosper and may it be the lamp to lead the way! Not that I think England's nurses are sitting in darkness in any other way—far, far from it. Indeed quite the reverse. We did admire and like them and their work enormously, and know they can show us the way in much. It is just that they are missing a lot in not being more united in their nursing organisations.

With all good wishes and again expressing my appreciation and thanks,

I am, and shall always remain,
Ever yours sincerely,

M. E. MISNER.

UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM.—We read with great interest a letter from "A Mere Patient," in your JOURNAL OF NURSING of April, 1928.

May we say that we are fully trained private nurses of some years' experience and have never had the misfortune to meet a nurse of the type that "A Mere Patient" has so unfortunately frequently met.

May we enquire were her nurses fully trained and where were they obtained? In the great majority of training schools, nurses of the type mentioned would have been instantly dismissed.

While human nature remains what it is, one will always come across the good and the bad worker, but we must agree "A Mere Patient" has been most unfortunate. May we suggest that next time she needs a trained nurse she rings up a Co-operation of good standing which employs nurses of a professional type?

"FAIRPLAY."

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

CONFERENCE ON PRIVATE NURSING.

Young Private Nurse :—"I think we ought to have some special course in training for Private Nursing. I do not think I committed all the crimes referred to by 'A Mere Patient' in last issue, but through ignorance I certainly omitted little attentions I now do not forget. People when sick think much of little things which do not always appear of importance to the nurse. Children are especially observant, and little boys very touchy at being treated without due respect to their manhood, or rather to their *manliness*. No nurse is any good who teases children, and don't forget to make female patients of all ages look nice—and pretty if possible. Such respect for little vanities goes a long way. The real understanding of pain and how to realise it—and suffer it yourself if possible—but I must not send you a budget, only I do think private nursing needs a very specially high type of nurse, and 'mere patients' are not always wrong in failing to appreciate the type of nurse often sent to them."

[The Conference on Private Nursing Conditions arranged by the British College of Nurses is being held as we go to press, so will not be reported till next month. We note the suggestion that a Special Course of Training for Private Nurses is suggested. We are offering a prize at an early date for the best Leaflet to be placed in the hands of young Private Nurses.—ED.]

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING AND THE "MIDWIFE" SUPPLEMENT

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

NOTICE.

We regret that we are unable to award a prize this month, no paper of sufficient merit having been received.

Will competitors kindly note that legibility and neatness are taken into consideration in awarding the prize.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR MAY.

Describe the preparation required for the nursing of a case of Hysterectomy. Mention the most important points in the after-treatment.

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