

## 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.*

## PRIVATE NURSING.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I fear I have trodden on the toes of some excellent nurses who evidently resent any criticism of their colleagues, and invite me to inform your readers where the nurses I criticised were trained, and consider I have been most unfortunate in my experience of nurses. I may explain that I have always obtained nurses from what is termed a "Co-op." of presumably good professional standing, but that with few exceptions I repeat I have not found private nurses domesticated, and that is a branch of nursing which all the training schools do not appear to cultivate, and which is an invaluable part of a private nurse's equipment.

I by no means exhausted my hints for further efficiency in my last letter which you were kind enough to publish. Here are a few more criticisms which I hope the profession will take in good part. How about personal appearance and uniform? Can it be agreed that the appearance of the majority of young nurses is *nurse-like*? Unduly short skirts, high tap-tapping heels, to say nothing of powder and lip stick—all so lacking in good taste. Then the fashionable peacocky voice, so discordant in what is called "Society," is a veritable scourge in a sick room, and the modulation of the voice might well be practised by private nurses. And may I put in a word for the care of baths and taps? Why should flowers and plants be arranged in such receptacles with the danger of blocking pipes—then overflows, and plumbers? But perhaps "this fidgetty old thing" has grumbled enough, but I do love harmony and order, and if I were a Matron or a Sister Tutor, I should teach "Domestic Management" in a special course in the training of probationers—and give a gold medal for the virtues which makes for its proficiency.

Thank you for your excellent Editorial on "The Private Nurse." The house of sickness is indeed "sacred ground."

Yours sincerely,

A MERE PATIENT.

## THE CLAIMS OF THE ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION RE REGISTRATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have been following with close attention the relations, so far as they have been disclosed, between our General Nursing Council and the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, and do trust that our Governing Body will stand firm and be master in its own house. The persistent attempts of the R.M.P.A. to encroach upon its powers are wholly unjustifiable, and in my opinion the best policy for the General Nursing Councils to adopt would be to put this autocratic association in its place, and have "no truck" with it, as we say in my part of the country.

The Members of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association do not appear to recognize that voluntary societies, which do valuable work in preparing the way for legislation, in regard to various callings or professions, are not justified in competing with the Governing Bodies of these professions when set up by Statutory Authority.

This is for the most part freely recognized. Thus the London Obstetrical Society, which had over 25 years' work to its credit in organising the education of midwives, ceased its examination when that of the Central Midwives Board

was instituted in 1905 (three years after the passing of the Midwives Act). Again, as was pointed out by the Registrar of the General Nursing Council for Scotland, in a letter published in your last issue, the Scottish Board of Health which had for many years conducted independent examinations for, and kept a Register of (1) Nurses trained in Poor Law Hospitals, and (2) Nurses trained in Fever Hospitals in Scotland, discontinued their Examinations and Register as soon as the Examinations of the General Nursing Council for Scotland were commenced.

I can only hope the members of the R.M.P.A. will even now be sufficiently well advised to do the same.

Yours faithfully,

STATE REGISTERED NURSE AND CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

A MERE MAN.

*A Male Patient writes:* "I read with great interest a letter from 'A Mere Patient' (my nurse shows me her *B.J.N.*) in your April issue. I am a chronic and know something of private nurses. 'A Mere Patient' voices complaints shared by my wife, but as a 'mere man' domestic details do not appear so all important. What I appreciate in my attendant is a cheery soul, a smiling face, energy, plenty of life, respect for my 'inner man,' plenty of soap and water, a magic hand with the flowers, an interest in the world's news. I like being braced up and made to feel alive, and not a bore. The use of gas, electric light, soiled bed linen, glass and crockery, are no doubt of vast importance, but give me a human touch, even if it smashes pots and pans. It is the best medicine in the world for a broken man."

THE GREATEST BENEFIT.

*F.B.C.N. (Canada) writes:* "In my opinion the greatest benefit the Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses have had placed within their reach is the monthly copy of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. Its influence is bound to be most inspiring. How lovely to meet so many 'dynamos' at Montreal next year. I hear it is to be a wonderful gathering."

APPRECIATION OF THE B.C.N.

*Miss Minnie E. Misner, F.B.C.N., Port Dover, Ontario, writes:* "I feel I cannot fully express my appreciation of all the College did for Miss Morrison and me. I was made to feel that every one was so truly interested and desirous of showing us the most interesting and important things, and, on the other hand, was so kind and considerate in the smaller things which mean so much. Our entertainment was so well looked after that I am sure after I am once settled to my routine, and at times lonely, work, I shall look back with longing to the many pleasurable events you and the others arranged for us. The dinner at the Monico was of course the cap and climax of all. A more happy event I have yet to participate in."

## 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.

## PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR JUNE.

What is meant by Eclampsia? Give the causes and state how you would nurse the case.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)