

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.

DISTINGUISHED APPRECIATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MY DEAR EDITOR,—Many thanks for the kind allusions in the JOURNAL to my little speech and my visit. I shall read the JOURNAL with more interest than ever now that I have seen the beautiful College and your Editorial Rooms. Thank you for the marked copy.

Yours, with kind regards,

HELEN MACMURCHY.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—There is much in a name sometimes. We all know that in commercial and industrial enterprises the name is often the stamp, the hall-mark of efficiency and proficiency; they are known by their names, and no other name would be "just as good." There is no desire, in fact, to change them; they live and prosper by their well-known and well-tried names. The Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses is known all over the English-speaking world. Queen Victoria founded it, with the money presented to her by her loyal subjects, to commemorate her Jubilee. It is now changed to that of *Queen's Institute of District Nursing*. The deletion of the significant words *Victoria* and *Jubilee* deprives it of the origin of its foundation, which will be lost to future generations of nurses. Is the change a wise one, I wonder?

Yours, etc.,

BEATRICE KENT.

ROAD NOISES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am convinced that the majority of motorists—be they drivers of motor-cars, motor-cycles, or heavy motor vehicles—never knowingly use their horns or drive noisily when passing hospitals, infirmaries, and nursing homes, *but* in many cases the stranger is quite unaware of the purpose of the buildings adjacent to the road upon which he or she is proceeding.

The Automobile Association has erected tens of thousands of road signs specifying the nature of unseen dangers—in particular, schools, crossroads, dangerous corners, concealed turnings, level crossings, etc., leaving it to the good sense of the motorist who is strange to the district to drive in the expectation that children, cross traffic, or closed gates may be encountered.

If, however, there is a general demand on the part of institutions tending the sick and convalescent for the erection of signs, I shall be pleased if those in charge will communicate with me, when I will arrange for an inspection to be made; and as more signs of this type are provided and erected, appeals will be issued to all motorists to refrain from disturbing patients by unnecessary use of the horn or noisy driving.

Yours faithfully,

STENSON COOKE,

Secretary, The Automobile Association.

The Automobile Association,
Fanum House,
New Coventry Street, London, W.1.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

OUR ANNUAL MEETING.

A Fellow writes:—"I was disappointed at being prevented from attending our Annual Meeting on July 11th—the first held in our own College—and read every word of the Report in *B.J.N.* It is grand, and the more Registered Nurses realise what devotion has been expended in the various activities of the College, the more they will appreciate their good fortune in having such a professional organisation at their disposal. Let us all combine to add to the strength and value of the College, by advising our colleagues to join it. I am a country member, and cannot be in the close personal touch with Headquarters as those living in and near London can; but, nevertheless, I realise the advantages of association with such an organisation, and the security which we enjoy by supporting one another. I have planted my 'acorn' both in 1927 and 1928, and hope every Fellow and Member will do likewise."

AN EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME.

Scottish Fellow writes:—"We over the Border who write *F.B.C.N.* after our registration letters were gratified to read in the *B.J.N.* that Miss Ritchie Thomson, of Glasgow—so well known for her fine work in Public Health—was one of the five selected for a grant to attend the Tuberculosis Congress in Rome. I have long realised how necessary it is for nurses to travel more, and how beneficial it is for us to take part in such gatherings in foreign countries. To sit on a platform with the great Mussolini will be an experience of a lifetime; would that I could enjoy such a thrill, but, alas! it is not possible. Educational grants cannot, in my opinion, be more wisely spent by the Council of the *B.C.N.* than by encouraging nurses to see the world and get out of a groove. Those of us who cannot go to Rome will read eagerly the report of the gathering, as no paper comes within a mile of our *B.J.N.* in reporting Nursing Conferences—thanks to Miss Breay, who has done our profession signal service in this connection for so many years."

HOW TO EQUIP THE "SAN."

A School Matron writes:—"I have been a matron in private schools for boys for some years now. I wonder how it is that more public interest has not been shown in the organisation of such institutions. Things have improved somewhat of late years in the standard of nursing in schools, but much needs to be done, and I believe it would be greatly to the benefit of the children if more attention were given to simple laws of health. Boys are not naturally clean, and it is a constant fight to have ears, nails, teeth and hair attended to daily, to say nothing of the internal economy. A little text-book on the subject would, I feel sure, meet a need. How to equip the 'San' would be most helpful, as I have visited many which are far from sanitary, and which are not either built or equipped for sick pupils. The simplest rules of health are often ignored. Could our College offer to advise on construction, equipment, daily routine of hygiene in school sanatoria? I believe permanent injury to health might often be prevented by more trained supervision in private schools, and perhaps even loss of life."

[This question is one of real national importance, and will not be lost sight of.—ED.]

NOTICE.

The Badges of the British College of Nurses are now ready, and can be obtained from the Secretary, 39, Portland Place, London, W., price 7s. 6d.

A very small charge will be incurred for inscribing name and number on the back of the Badge.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR OCTOBER.

Describe the symptoms and causes of acute nephritis in an adult. How would you nurse such a case?

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