

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.

THE NURSING HOMES REGISTRATION ACT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The Nursing Homes Registration Act which comes into operation on July 1st of this year, though disappointing in many particulars, contains certain provisions calculated to be of benefit to the community.

Power is given to the local supervising authority to prescribe that records shall be kept of any miscarriages occurring in a maternity home, and of the children born therein, and of the children so born who are removed from the home, otherwise than to the custody or care of a parent, guardian, or relative, also to require notification to be given of any death occurring in a nursing home.

The persons mentioned in the Act as authorised to enter and inspect any premises which are used, or concerning which there is reasonable cause to believe that they are used for the purposes of a nursing home are the Medical Officer of Health of the Local Supervising Authority, or some qualified nurse, or other officer duly authorised by them; the term "qualified nurse" being broadly defined to mean "a person registered in the general part of the Register of Nurses required to be kept under the Nurses' Registration Act."

The great blot upon the Act is the "Power of Minister to exempt Christian Science Nursing Homes." These places should either not have been recognised and mentioned at all in the Act, or they should have been brought under its provisions. It is true that they are required as a condition of exemption to "adopt and use the name of Christian Science house," but any one referring to the Act will find that they are described as "Christian Science Nursing Homes."

During the debate on the Second Reading of the Bill in the House of Commons considerable anxiety was expressed, on the use in the Bill of the words "Nursing Home" as applied to Christian Science Houses, and Mr. Gerald Hurst suggested the substitution of the word "institution."

Sir Kingsley Wood undertook to consider the suggestions before the Bill went to the House of Lords "with a view to substituting the word 'institution'" but nothing happened, and the Christian Scientists whose Houses are the only Nursing Homes exempt from inspection and control "sit on velvet."

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,

STATE REGISTERED NURSE.

[The Act was frankly a compromise, and compromises are usually unsatisfactory, witness the permission given to Local Supervising Authorities to delegate their powers. We are glad to note that the London County Council at its meeting on January 31st decided that none of the powers conferred upon it in this connection should be delegated to Metropolitan Borough Councils.—ED.]

INTERNATIONAL AMENITIES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Some time ago I had the pleasure to be for a time in the Lord Mayor Treloar's Hospital for Cripple Children, at Alton. As we intend to start a hospital in Holland on the same lines as in Alton, the Matron of the Lord Mayor Treloar's Hospital was so kind as to take me in for some time to get a general view of the things going on there.

I must tell that the time I spent there has been a very

happy one. I had every opportunity to see and to do the things I needed for our hospital, and I must say that the Matron, the Assistant Matrons, as well as the Sisters, have done all they could to help me. It will not be necessary to give a description of the hospital and its beautiful situation, because I think that mostly everybody in the nursing world will have heard of it or seen it.

I wrote an article in detail about my stay there in our Dutch nursing paper and mentioned that the principal thought there was to make the sick children happy, as well as the staff.

My time there has been very useful to me, and, as everybody in their way gave the help to us that they did, I am sure that we shall reach our ideal to build our hospital and to work it on the highest principles.

MARY VAN DITMAR.

THE LONDON UNIVERSITY DIPLOMA.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I beg to thank you for calling attention in your columns to the fact that of the successful candidates for the London University's Diploma in Nursing, three of us received our instruction at Battersea Polytechnic.

One is sure one is voicing the feelings of all when stating that we are most grateful for the help and encouragement obtained at that school, both from the present and past Principals of the Department of Hygiene, and the teachers.

I hope increasing numbers of trained nurses will avail themselves of this assistance.

Yours faithfully,

Park Hospital, Hither Green.

JOYCE WATSON.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Why?

S. R. N. writes: "I note in the Press that 1,653 Registered Nurses have failed to pay their retention fees, and in consequence their names will not appear in the 1928 Register—Why? Has the General Nursing Council made any enquiries concerning the reasons for this deplorable decision upon the part of the nurses, or is it "taken as read"? Surely when hundreds of Registered Nurses fail to keep up their professional status all are not merely ignorant and apathetic defaulters. Is it not the duty of the G.N.C. to know *why* 1,653 Registered Nurses have lost touch with it? I have heard many comments from nurses on their reasons for, in my opinion, their very unwise decision. (1) "I will not be on the Register with a known thief." I have heard several times: (2) "I don't choose to be governed by the laity—money and social influence have far too much power on the G.N.C." (3) "Why should I pay the huge salaries received by the senior officials of the G.N.C.?" No one likes home truths. So no doubt the G.N.C. has made no effort to gauge the feelings of Registered Nurses on this matter. I object to all these things, but hope for better management in the future. It is quite apparent that the strong feeling shown over the retention on the Register of the name of a nurse proved guilty of theft will prevent a repetition of this insult to our cloth."

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PRIZE COMPETITION FOR FEBRUARY.

Describe the nursing care of a patient suffering from arthritis.

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