

## 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 PLAIN FACTS OF MATERNITY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I recently took my 15-year-old daughter to Queen Charlotte's Hospital to see the young mothers and their new babies. She was delighted with the experience and readily appreciated the fact that the mothers were in the Hospital in order that they might have their babies in greater comfort than would have been possible in their own homes.

I think this visit was good for this young girl, as well as interesting. She enjoyed seeing the babies immensely and talking to the mothers, and accepted the situation quite naturally, as all young girls should at her age who are normally brought up; the simple fact that the mother and the babe are one until the baby should be strong enough to have an independent life. Now I naturally feel that what is good for my girl should be good for others.

Nowadays the minds of our children are more inquiring, more receptive, more reasonable and better fitted to accept the realities of life than were those of our parents. Why, then, should they not be brought face to face at an early age with the plain facts of maternity? And where are the facts more simply and beautifully stated than in a Maternity Ward?

Here in bed lies a woman with a cradle at the foot still empty, waiting for its occupant. Here is another whose baby is only a few hours old.

I would like to see the senior girls of our public schools, and those who are educated at home, taken to Queen Charlotte's Hospital by their mothers, as mine was, or by a schoolmistress, with the approval of their mothers, and given the chance to accept simply the facts of childbirth which puzzle so many young minds.

Such a visit would give them a new and clear and helpful outlook on life, and would encourage many of them to think of the welfare of poor women; and stir in their minds a desire to help to make the lot of mothers of all classes happier and easier, thus enabling them to keep the strength necessary to care for, to look after, and to bring up their young families.

Yours faithfully,

MARGHERITA HOWARD DE WALDEN.

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5, Cosway Street, London, N.W.1.

## DOWDY STATE UNIFORM.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Having read the article on State Uniform in this month's Journal, I feel I must recall an incident which happened to me two days ago. A very attractive lady politely stopped and asked me if I were a Girl Guide Instructor? On telling her I was a Nursing Sister, she replied: I have often seen you about Kensington, and quite thought that was your rank.

Yours truly,

BEATRICE TREASURE, S.R.N., F.B.C.N.

## AFRAID OF RULE 9 (1) (g).

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—Many thanks for your letter of the 27th Sept. I expect you will be surprised to know that nurses placed on the Register during the term of grace are still excluded, and that reciprocity with New South Wales only concerns those nurses who actually sit for the one portal examination at home.

So you see we poor "veterans" are victimised again. However, we were determined to try our luck in New Zealand.

Here we have met no difficulty with regard to registration, but alas! there is very little work, and we feel it would be wrong to stay here and take appointments when there are nurses here needing work.

We stayed two days at the New Zealand Nurses' Association Club and were treated with the utmost kindness and consideration by the Matron, Miss Honchan.

At the annual meeting of the Club we met many charming people, including Miss Bagley, who is on the committee, and also inspector of hospitals. We have been placed on the Auxiliary Staff-books.

We expect to arrive home about February 16th.

I am looking forward to seeing the College and am doing my best to persuade my friends to join.

Yours faithfully,

DORA BARLOW, F.B.C.N.

Auckland, New Zealand.

December 19th.

[Upon enquiry we find that quite naturally our Dominion Registration Authorities and colleagues strongly object to untrained women registered in England under Rule 9 (1) (g) being placed upon their Registers, and ranked with highly-qualified Nurses. This grave injury sustained by English Nurses upon the initiative of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and resulting from the futility of the late G.N.C., will not be tolerated by Nurses in Australia.—ED.]

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Miss J. C. Child, F.B.C.N., writes:—"The death of the Baroness Sophie Mannerheim removes yet another of our Life Officers of the Grand Council of the International Council of Nurses. Nature is eliminating our Life Officers and Foundation Members very rapidly, and we are grateful for their work, and that of this noble lady, for our Profession, and generally for the health and welfare of mankind. May she rest in peace, and may Light Perpetual shine upon her."

Miss C. Carter writes: "It is with pleasure I again enclose my subscription to THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, although for some years I have not been able to take an active part in the Nursing World. But I am more than interested, and rejoice to know that State Registration has come to pass, and that you are rewarded after all the thirty years of fighting for it."

## 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 FOR MARCH.

In a case of an extensive burn by fire, what method of treatment might be adopted, and what are the chief dangers?

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