

## 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.*

## COTTAGES AT RICKMANSWORTH FOR EX-MEMBERS OF THE T.A.N.S.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was much interested in reading your reference to the above cottages.

During over twenty years of District Nursing it frequently came to my notice that rent-free homes would be a great boon to many elderly women, who have some means, but not sufficient to live upon comfortably and pay the high rent now charged for cottages or rooms.

In those days I did not think of cottage homes for nurses, but years, circumstances, and meeting other elderly nurses who are just longing for a quiet little home of their own to rest in the evening time of life, have impressed their need upon me.

What a comfort the above cottages must be to those privileged to occupy them.

There are many nurses who belong to no distinguished nursing service, but whose life's work has been one long devoted effort for the relief of suffering humanity.

Some of these are lonely and in straitened circumstances.

Are there any cottage homes for such as these?  
And are there any in the Northern Counties?

A. R.

*Since the early days of the NURSING RECORD  
an appreciative reader.*

## THE FUTURE POSITION OF THE TRAINED NURSE HEALTH VISITOR.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—What is the future outlook for the trained nurse as Health Visitor?

Numbers of trained nurses are leaving the curative side of the profession for the preventive work of Health Visitor, which seems to be very popular at the present time.

There are also a large number of young women entering the field by a "short cut," i.e., two years' Course in Hygiene and Public Health work, followed by one year in which to gain the C.M.B. Certificate, and a further period of six months' general training.

I am told that the shortened course of general training is to prevent the student becoming obsessed by the curative side of the work, which is considered a disadvantage to a Health Visitor.

The position at the present time is that the Local Authorities who have the selection of the candidates stipulate that all Health Visitors must have had three years' general training, but supposing that at any time this rule is abolished by the Ministry of Health, what then will be the future outlook for the Trained Nurse Health Visitor?

Will the younger woman trained on the lines approved by the Ministry of Health, that of preventive and not curative work, take preference? And will the trained nurse find herself no longer needed as Health Visitor when she has lost touch with hospital work and cannot go back to begin again?

Is there such a demand for Public Health Workers? Does not the supply far exceed the demand? For every vacancy advertised there are, I am told, at least fifty applicants.

Why is there such a desire to leave hospital work?

I should be glad if your readers would express their opinion on this subject.

I am, Dear Madam,  
A STUDENT HEALTH VISITOR  
(Anxious about the future).

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

## Coroners' Nurses.

*An L.C.C. School Nursing Sister* writes: "Would it not be both appropriate and economical if each Borough's Health Visitors took it in relays of one month to be present during post-mortem examinations of women and children. These officers are all trained nurses and could be very useful to the Coroner as well as to the relatives."

## Difficulties and Problems of Nurse Training in India.

*Miss Jeannie Macready, M.B.C.N.*, writes from a Women's Mission Hospital in India: "The Journal reaches me safely and I enjoy reading it thoroughly. The work in Agnier is full of interest. The unrest has made no difference to the number taking advantage of the skill and care given by the staff and we are usually full to overflowing, the overflow sleeping on the floor till a bed is ready. The nurses are all Indian Christian girls. I think it is really wonderful the way they keep going so cheerfully during the fierce heat of the hot season. Rajputana has dry heat, so we can go on with surgical work without fear of sepsis, and the hotter it gets the busier we become, as work in the fields not being possible till the rains break, the village folk crowd in for treatment. Agnier is a very dirty city and the amount of T.B. is heart-breaking; we have had a grant of money this year from the money given to Lady Irwin, and we are using it to build a ward for tubercular patients.

There is a Maternity Home in the city under the Municipality, where Indian midwives are trained. It is supervised by doctors, and I have three of the students at a time in hospital for extra training. These are very often non-Christian women Hindus and Mohammedans. Their training is for two years, and then they go back to their own States or cities to practise as midwives.

Our nurses have a three years' course, and a year for midwifery, when they get their general certificate.

Of course there are lots of difficulties and problems, but there is undoubted progress.

India is so vast, and those trying to train are comparatively few, and there is age-long custom and superstition to fight against, but I enjoy every part of the work, and feel it is a great privilege to be in India trying to help her women and children, through the work of the hospital. I have a very vivid recollection of my visit to the College, and the kindness of the President that day."

## Fine Professional Spirit.

*Miss M. M. McCarthy, of Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, New York*, writes: "It gave me great pleasure to witness the presentation of honours so well deserved to Miss Isabel Macdonald, at the British College of Nurses. I was much impressed with the fine professional spirit in the conduct of the meeting and in the whole group. I cannot refrain from congratulating you on your organisation. Your attainment is enviable in any profession, my own not excepted, therefore you must be doubly proud of this clarity of purpose and ideal.

As an American teacher on a happy holiday in England, I want to thank you for a profitable as well as a pleasurable afternoon in the British College of Nurses."

## PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR SEPTEMBER.

What do you know of Spinal Anæsthesia and the drugs used in this connection?

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