

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.

A TEST FOR NURSE EXAMINERS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—As a Fellow of the British College of Nurses, I eagerly read the admirable reports of the meetings of Council which prove to us month by month how alert its members are in working for our professional elevation and well-being, and which also prove how true it is that self-government alone can inspire us with a sense of responsibility. The resolution agreed and sent to the General Nursing Council on the necessity for an Educational standard for Nurse Examiners is one which many examinees will endorse.

Let me set down my personal experience at my Final Examination. To me it appeared a most momentous occasion, and I prepared for the ordeal from top to toe. I entered the Hall prepared as far as possible in "theatre" trim, bathed, starched, and absolutely neat to the last pin, and surely personal appearance should be considered on such an occasion. But what did I find? That I was to be examined by a very untidy woman, with unbrushed hair, a shapeless blouse, short petticoats, light stockings and old shoes, the type of woman for whom there should be no place in a well ordered training school. I had quite to pull myself together to attend to her questions. I was bubbling up with resentment. Surely the G.N.C. can obtain the services of educated women as examiners who realise that it is their duty to be clean and tidy and pronounce the aspirate. I hope the British College Council will continue to agitate for a higher educational standard for Nurse Examiners.

Yours sincerely,

F. B. C. N.

[Why should not Registered Nurses try to help themselves in this matter?—ED.]

TOXINS GENERATED BY THE EMOTIONS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was interested to see that the illness of the late Minister of Labour, which has necessitated her residence in a Nursing Home for a time, is described in the Press as "fatigue poisoning." It seems to me so much more accurate and apt a description than "a nervous breakdown," which as often as not is an acknowledgment of ignorance, and at best covers a multitude of widely varying conditions.

We know that poisons are generated by emotions, that the toxin of anger is so potent that its results are sometimes even fatal, that there is a toxin of hate, and others could be enumerated. It is a matter of considerable interest that the physical conditions caused by various toxins acting on the nervous system are now being investigated by the medical profession.

Competent nurses could help by observing and reporting symptoms. Not only would the resulting treatment be influenced beneficially, but there would be a greatly added interest to nurses themselves in cases which sometimes tend to be monotonous.

If you, Madam, will be good enough to draw attention to this matter in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING you will, I believe, do good service to patients of the class often little understood, and also to nurses, whose efficiency and consequent power of service should be increased thereby.

I am, Dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

OBSERVER.

"WHEREAS I WAS BLIND NOW I SEE."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Do even those nurses who are accustomed to project themselves as far as possible into their patients' personalities always realise what it means to recover sight after a long period of almost total blindness? I recently had a letter from a friend who after years of darkness most courageously and uncomplaining borne, wrote:—"I have just got my distant glasses. The lenses are no good for near work, in fact are a stumbling block, but I write in faith. I am, after three operations, and four years of almost blindness, very excited at really seeing the expressions of people's faces, and the petals of flowers. The world indeed is now a moving, living, world, a stage and players complete. I find the effect is like that of strong drink, and I need to take it with caution. I cannot yet cross a road without a pilot, but my doctor will let me have reading glasses next week. Also I am in the dentist's hands, so I am being repaired, and shall gradually get young again."

What an inestimable blessing is the precious gift of sight.

Yours faithfully,

ONE WHO POSSESSES IT.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

How to Save Money.

Economist writes: "(1) I wish to suggest that third class instead of first class tickets should be provided by taxpayers for Members of Parliament. Third is good enough for us: why not for them? And many M.P.s have never themselves paid for a first class ticket in their lives.

"2. How about the League of Nations? The salaries paid officials and all classes of workers are most extravagant, and I note the Committee has this year discussed the matter and declined to reduce this extravagant expenditure. As Great Britain pays about one quarter of the League's expenses, cannot our Government insist upon economy? So many of the nations are in arrears with their financial liabilities.

"(3) So glad to note the patriotic dignity of the medical profession in at once agreeing to reduced emoluments for panel patients. What a pity the teachers have shown so avaricious a spirit. Would it not have been more seemly to have given the £10,000 spent in advertising their grievances, to the State—which has educated so many of them free, gratis and for nothing?"

Interest in Miss Mollett's Early Life.

Miss C. M. Emery writes:—"I have read with great interest the series of articles on Miss Mollett's early life, written by her sister.

"It was my privilege to be a Probationer at the R.S.H. and Southampton Hospital, while Miss Mollett was Matron, from the year 1901 until 1904, and my certificate bears her signature. I was also a member of the Nurses League until Miss Mollett retired from hospital life."

The Honduras Tragedy.

Miss E. Horton, Hazlewood House, 52, First Avenue, Dumbreck, Glasgow, writes:—"While the Bishop of Honduras was broadcasting his appeal to-night for help for his people, it occurred to me that we, the nurses of the British Isles—retired or working—could help. I shall be glad if you can make this appeal known. I am post-carding Matrons here, also the *Glasgow Herald*."

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR NOVEMBER.

What are the exciting causes of Shock? What are its symptoms? What methods of treatment do you know of which are employed in combatting it?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)