

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 LEAGUE OF SISTER TUTORS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—The Sister Tutors have formed a League to deal with matters pertaining to their work and status, and to allow them as a body to become affiliated to the National Council of Nurses, which surely should appeal to all educated women.

The Constitution of this League requires each member to be a State Registered Nurse on the General Part of the Nurses' Register and to have held a Sister Tutor's Post.

The League itself to meet annually, but its Executive quarterly.

The Annual Subscription to be 2s. 6d.

The Officers appointed at the Meeting being Miss D. K. Graham, President and Chairman; Miss E. S. Laing, Hon. Treasurer; Miss H. G. Ballard, Hon. Secretary.

Executive Committee.

Miss J. Stewart, Sister Tutor, Fever; Miss Le Beau, Sister Tutor, Children's; Miss Rigby, Miss McIntyre, Miss Radford, Sister Tutors, General.

This League is for all Sister Tutors having the above qualifications.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

HENRIETTA BALLARD.

St. Leonard's Hospital, Shoreditch, N.I.

REASONS WHY SISTER TUTORS REQUIRE A LEAGUE—

Is it right to expect Teachers and Pupils after a heavy day of work and mental strain to be fit for coaching and even Anatomy Lectures at 8 or 9 p.m. ? and yet this is done. Nurses rise at 6 a.m., the Medical Lecturers often at 10 a.m., and yet women are the "weaker sex," or supposed to be.

Is it right that the Nurse's off-duty time should be spent at her lectures daily, when in the Class-room she is taught to take out-door exercise in her off-duty time ?

Is it fair to a Sister Tutor to teach a considerable number more hours per week, than a male probationer nurse works ? And Teachers should at least be entitled to Bank Holidays, instead of having "odd jobs" found for them.

In post-graduate study effect of fatigue, mental or physical, is much stressed, but Teachers in hospital are not allowed to put their expensive knowledge to practice.

We are losing numbers of Trained Sister Tutors for Health Visitors, Private Nursing, etc.; the mental strain is too great. Surely something might be done to encourage these valuable women to remain Teachers. Why not non-resident posts with Teaching Hours equivalent with School Teachers whose subjects do not compare with Nursing, Midwifery, Anatomy, Bacteriology, Chemistry, History, etc ?

The General Nursing Council have laid down an examination syllabus for Nurses, is it always followed ? Do inspectors ever come to assist Sister Tutors to maintain the standard.

The Sister Tutor with poor facilities and uneducated probationers in the smaller hospitals has the hard and impossible task of endeavouring to bring these probationers to the level of good education and Preliminary School training in the large hospitals.

A—"D.N."

THE RELIGIOUS ATMOSPHERE IS MISSING.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—“Love thy neighbour as thyself,” a precept given to a wealthy Hebrew in the early Christian days is to-day a proverb of East and West, in other words, man must abstain from whatever injures happiness and degrades character. To-day one wonders if this rule still applies, one hears of such callousness in the case of

the sick as to make one wonder how far the nurse of to-day is removed from Sairey Gamp, and yet more, there is a difference, much regretted, in the atmosphere of many of our hospitals.

The Religious Influence is missing, services in the wards are becoming a thing of the past, prayers which surely should always be read where the sick and suffering are, are seldom ever heard, and it sounds also that the human touch at the end of Life's journey has passed out.

The love of Humanity, is it still prominent, or is it rather love of self ?

Is nursing entered as a way of earning one's living, of making friends and enjoying more social companionship, or to aid the suffering and cheer his way ? Surely, it sounds as if the former was the outstanding reason, when the Press has the opportunity of bringing before the public eye such experiences as those lately printed.

Are nurses no longer entering nursing as a Profession, a Vocation or a Calling ? What does Vocation mean, to the Sisters of the Churches, it is their life work, nothing stands between them and humanity, their life is made up of self-sacrifice and human sympathy, that wonderful healer of the sick one, with its expression of love makes their vocation for them one of intense pleasure, that of giving happiness to others.

Surely we should encourage this spirit in our midst, late passes, frivolities, heavy smoking and much dancing cannot aid the nurse in her work ; every one needs peaceful sleep to fit them for life's work, to endow them with strength to go on. “Let the weakest, let the humblest, remember, that in his daily course he can, if he will, shed around him almost a heaven. Kindly words, sympathising attentions, watchfulness against wounding men's sensitiveness, these cost very little, but they are priceless in value from hour to hour.

From moment to moment

We are supported,

blest, by small kindnesses.”

MEMBER OF COUNCIL, BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

ASSOCIATION OF INSPECTORS OF MIDWIVES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—At the annual meeting of the above Association the question of salaries for non-medical Inspectors of Midwives was discussed, and in view of the fact that Health Visitors salaries which are approved by the Ministry of Health commence at £200 and that many are receiving £300 per annum, plus uniform allowance and expenses, we feel that salaries of Inspectors should be considered.

In the departmental committee report on the Training and employment of Midwives it is recommended that non-medical Inspectors of Midwives should be Trained Nurses with special Midwifery experience and holding the Teachers certificate.

I was instructed to approach the medical and nursing papers asking them if they will assist in attracting to this work women with these qualifications by not accepting advertisements for Inspectors of Midwives at a commencing salary less than £350 per annum, plus expenses. The matter is urgent, as under the Local Government Act, 1929, (Supervision of Midwives) many new Local Supervising Authorities are being created.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

MAY COLEMAN, Hon. Secretary.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR MARCH.

Give the History of the Thermometer and its Use.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)