

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 FEW QUESTIONS MERITING DISCUSSION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM.—The letter from N. Dooley, published in the current issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, ought to provoke discussion, and I am certainly glad that you have invited correspondence on the subject.

There are several points which come to mind immediately after reading this letter.

(1) If all hospitals were centrally controlled there would be no possibility of a man being informed after six months that a bed was now available for him. That actually happened, in my own experience, and from one of our foremost Northern hospitals. The supposed need for observation was past, but the psychological effect was disastrous.

The mental hospitals under the control of the Lancashire County Council are centrally controlled from Preston, and every hospital reports to Preston daily as to beds available, etc.

(2) Nurses during training are paid higher salaries than were the General Trained Nurses before the war. The consequence is seen to-day, when the trained nurse in hospital is often offered about double the salary of the nurse in training, and if a nurse has been out of hospital for some time it is difficult to get another post no matter how well qualified she may be.

(3) More and more are patients going into hospital, where even the paying patients are nursed by nurses in training. This means much less work for the private nurse, and one is tempted to ask what is the advantage of being a State Registered Nurse? We pay our fees but how much control have we? The leaders of the nursing profession seem to be more concerned in making the standard of training more difficult and maintaining social prestige than in the well-being of the nurses, and the maintenance of a livelihood when trained.

(4) Is the matron who takes her nurses off duty to send them in the streets selling flags helping to maintain the dignity of the profession? In what other profession would it be tolerated?

Should the nurse be considered insubordinate who objects to raising her salary in this way?

These are only a few of the questions which merit discussion, but they will serve as a beginning.

Thanking you,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

MARIA DUGDALE.

Claremont,
New Longton,
near Preston.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Professional Recognition

We invited correspondence on the letter inserted in our last issue from Mr. N. Dooley, on the question of "Professional Recognition" raised previously by a correspondent in connection with the desire of State Registered Nurses for the publication in the press of the names of successful candidates in the final examination of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. We print above a signed letter on the subject, but as it is requested by others who have replied that their signatures shall not be published we quote as follows:—

S. R. N. writes:—"N. Dooley's point that if the 80,000 nurses on the Register would demand the total maintenance

of hospitals by the State, Flag Days and the like would be unnecessary is interesting. Certainly I do not think nurses in uniform should beg for these in the street. It is undignified and unprofessional. But I should like to know where your correspondent gets statistics in support of the statement that 'well over 50 per cent. of the nurses in general hospitals either collapse or find themselves compelled to leave during their training period,' and I emphatically dissent from his statement as to the prevalence of inhuman conditions in general hospitals. Let us be professional by all means and demand professional recognition, but do not let us try to support a just claim by statements which are grotesquely at variance with facts."

The Mercy of Buddha.

An interested Reader writes:—"The article in the May JOURNAL on 'the Spirit of Benevolence' describing the appreciation by Tsurger Nakayama, the Buddhist priest, of Florence Nightingale, is truly wonderful. It is testimony to the fact that nurses in Japan are endeavouring, as indeed is well known throughout the International Nursing World, to follow closely in her footsteps, that their self-sacrificing service so aroused his interest in 'the first nurse in the world' that he made the nurses tell him about 'the great Englishwoman,' and then read more about her, finally coming to the conclusion that there is a perfect coincidence between the humane efforts of Florence Nightingale and the Mercy of Buddha.

"So now in the room of this Buddhist priest hangs a portrait of Florence Nightingale painted for him by an artist friend, and before it a shrine and an ever burning light. May I suggest to British Nurses that they too keep before them a portrait of Florence Nightingale, and in front of it a money box into which, as occasion offers, they can drop a contribution in support of the Florence Nightingale Scholarships Fund of the National Council of Nurses, just to show that their appreciation of the Founder of Modern Nursing does not fall short of that of a Buddhist priest."

The King's First Ambassador.

A Correspondent writes:—"I have just been reading 'The King's first Ambassador' (A Biographical Study of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales) by Basil Mainé, and commend it to readers of the B.J.N. for their library list, emphasising as it does the earnestness, sympathy, versatility and charm of His Royal Highness. To quote one story told by him at the 1934 festival of the Royal Scottish Corporation. "I was determined," he told those festive Scotsmen, "not to read a speech to you to-night. I remember the words of the old parishioner who had listened to the new 'meenester's' first sermon. He was asked what he thought of it and he answered: 'In the first place it was read; in the second it wasna' well read; and in the third, it wasna' worth reading.'"

"The book includes some charming photographs of the Prince, notably one 'As Indian Chief, *Morning Star*.'"

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Headquarters Address: 39, Portland Place, London, W.
Members of National Associations of Nurses visiting London always welcomed with pleasure.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR AUGUST.

What treatment and nursing are carried out with a view to preventing (a) Heart failure in Diphtheria; (b) Intestinal perforation in Enteric Fever; (c) Nephritis in Scarlet Fever; and (d) Broncho-pneumonia in Measles?

No paper of sufficient merit having been received, we regret we are unable to award a Prize this month.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)