

## 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.—“Maria Dugdale” touches on several interesting matters in her letter in the last issue. One becoming more and more urgent is the difficulty of obtaining well paid work when trained, owing to the use of less expensive semi-trained probationers in paying hospital wards. It should be a rule that paying patients should be provided with a Registered Nurse, just as they are with registered medical practitioners.

I also very strongly object to flag selling in the streets, and I am thankful to say it is not permitted in the institution in which I am working. This would appear to be a duty well suited to voluntary collectors, V.A.D.s and others and nice looking young people are more successful than older women. This source of income is almost indispensable in maintaining voluntary hospitals—but it is not a nurse's duty.

ELEANOR THOMPSON.

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

## The Goddess Flora must Provide.

“A valuable branch of nursing which would benefit by a Florence Nightingale Scholarship is district nursing, and I venture to suggest that the Council of the Queen's Institute for District Nursing might finance one. I know of several able members of the Institute who are anxious to take the Bedford College Course, and come into touch with a new environment, specially of an international nature. Would it not be possible for the Council of the Institute to allot a scholarship annually from the thousands of pounds secured through the Garden Scheme, in recognition of Miss Nightingale's passionate love of flowers? There would seem to be something very appropriate in associating her with the Goddess Flora for the benefit of district nursing.”

## “Our Scholar.”

A Leicester nurse writes: “In these parts it gave very great satisfaction and encouragement amongst my colleagues that the National Council of Nurses Scholarship was this year awarded to a nurse trained in a leading county hospital, as it so often happens that preference is given in the awarding of valuable appointments to those nurses trained in metropolitan hospitals—and it is well that encouragement should be given to our first class (second to none) county nursing schools. We note in BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING Miss Dickinson's splendid success, and congratulate her upon it. Now Leicester must emulate her fine example. These scholarships awarded to nurses from nurses are very significant, as those of us who subscribe are naturally deeply interested in the career of ‘our’ scholar.”

## No Coercion.

“Freedom of Action” writes: “I note a member has resigned from the British College of Nurses because as reported in the May issue the Council decided not to sign collectively the Peace Ballot—its very good reason being that each member of the Council and College were free to sign it or not as she chose. Surely this is the constitutional method of dealing with public business unless instructed by the members.

The member in question appears to deny to others liberty of action in methods of procuring Peace. Coercion is in my opinion a method by which we shall never attain it—and I for one should have resented the Council voting for me without my consent either one way or the other. It is time we nurses used our own discretion professionally and in politics—instead of being herded here and there like a flock of sheep.”

## Professional Publicity.

“One who Pays” writes: “Five whole columns in fine print in *The Times* one day recently of successful examinees—and every day records of professional success. It would appear that the General Nursing Councils both in England and Scotland are the only statutory bodies who hide the lights of their examinees under a bushel.

## Smoke Abatement.

An Air-minded Nurse writes: “I hope the Smoke Abatement Society will take note of the danger to air-craft recently commented on in the press of the smoke-cloud which hangs over so many cities, and not only to air-craft, but to the cities and their inhabitants over which aeroplanes are compelled to fly so blindly. Surely it is only necessary to draw attention to this danger for steps to be taken to combat it. The Smoke Abatement Society, which has worked so long and earnestly for reform in this connection could hardly have a stronger argument in support of their plea. It might well be the basis for the introduction of legislation for the abatement and control of the nuisance of smoke laden air which is a menace to health as well as to life.”

## “THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING” AND THE “MIDWIFE” SUPPLEMENT

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## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Headquarters Address: 39, Portland Place, London, W.1.  
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Articles on Practical Nursing subjects are favourably considered.

## PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR SEPTEMBER.

For what condition is Fothergill's operation performed? Describe the pre-operative and post-operative treatment of such a case.

Competitors are reminded that articles submitted should be written on one side of the paper only.

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