

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 NURSING COMMUNITY OF CHRIST THE CONSOLER.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—I should be grateful if you would allow me space to mention the Nursing Community of Christ the Consoler, and its present needs.

It originated some six years ago under its founder, the late Fr. Turner, S.S.J.E., helped by the Community of the Epiphany. They desired to have a Community of fully-trained (State-registered) nurses, who, while leading the Religious life, would devote themselves entirely to nursing. It is a vocation in which in the earlier days of the Oxford Movement Anglo-Catholics were the pioneers, and religion will always remain the best motive of unselfish nursing.

For the last three years they have occupied St. George's House, Highgate, where, in spite of small space, they have already had 107 patients, many people for convalescence, and have attended many outside patients. At present there are five professed Sisters (soon they hope to be seven), besides five novices, and there are many aspirants. Bishop Frere, C.R., with the consent of the Bishop of London, is their Visitor, and their present Mother has been lent by the Community of the Epiphany.

But the lease of St. George's expires next Michaelmas and cannot be renewed. In any case, the Community has outgrown this house, and is in need of a mother-house and more scope for its nursing work. It is prepared to consider the offer of any hospital work or the care of a cottage hospital where it can express its ideal of combining the Religious life and the vocation of nursing.

If any of your readers can suggest anything which will help them towards that end, I would be grateful if they would write to me or to the Rev. Mother, at 6, North Hill, Highgate, N.6. Finance forbids them at present from purchasing premises sufficiently large for their purpose. But as the Community has, I think, justified its existence, there may be many who would like to help in developing a form of the Religious life, of which the Church of England stands in need, where the nursing is entirely carried out by Religious. They prefer the neighbourhood of Highgate, where they are already known, but they are, of course, willing to put themselves at the disposal of the Church where most needed. Patients of any religious denomination are received.

JOHN E. MURRAY, C.R.
Warden of N.C.C.C.

Priory of the Resurrection,
77, Westbourne Terrace, W.2.

HOSPITAL WOMEN ORDERLIES AND PRIVATE NURSING.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—The Committee of the League of Private Nurses and many Members of the League view with alarm the proposal of the London County Council to evolve a service of "Hospital Orderlies." There are many points upon which one might criticise such a scheme, but there are probably none in the profession who have greater need to be alert to what is happening than the private nurses. We see very dangerous rocks ahead if the proposals of the

L.C.C. materialise to any wide extent. Inevitably those people (who will be possessed of the merest smattering of nursing knowledge) will ultimately, many of them, find their way to private cases. Indeed, for chronic cases they may be much in demand among people who have little discrimination when the choice lies between the highly qualified Registered Nurse and someone quite "willing," well meaning and above all cheap but—*ignorant*. The fact that in the future those one-time "orderlies" will undercut the private nurses severely, in the matter of charges, will inevitably place them in competition with the latter, it cannot be otherwise. We feel that the people who, on their patients' account and their own, should be most alert on this matter are the private nurses. I am therefore asking all those who view the position from this standpoint, and who have been or are engaged in private nursing, to join the League and so strengthen our hands when we have to deal with such matters as this which closely affect their interests.

On page iv of the cover will be found a form of application for membership of the League. This should be filled in and (along with a postal order or stamps to the value of one shilling) sent to the address given on the form.

I shall be grateful if you will allow this rather lengthy letter to find space in your columns as I feel it to be my duty, as Honorary Secretary of the League, to draw the attention of my colleagues to the position, and to invite them to unite with us to strengthen the voice of the private nurses in the affairs that relate to their branch of the profession.

I am, etc.,

GERTRUDE BLACKLOCK, S.R.N.,
Hon. Secretary, League of Private Nurses.

AN ERROR CORRECTED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—In the issue of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of September, 1935, I note that on page 247, in the appreciation of Sir Thomas Barlow's services to Medicine it is stated that he "was beloved by the nurses who worked in his wards at the London Hospital." Sir Thomas is a University College Hospital man and is greatly beloved and honoured in the hospital. He was always a good friend to the Sisters and Nurses and still remains actively interested in their welfare.

I am sure you will not mind this mistake being pointed out.

Yours faithfully,

R. E. DARBYSHIRE.

University College Hospital,
Gower Street, London, W.C.1.

In the year 1879 we were appointed Sister of the Charlotte Ward at the London Hospital, at which time the then Dr. Thomas Barlow was an assistant physician, and had five beds in one of its four divisions, and his kindness to the patients, in spite of his keen devotion to research, won their gratitude. His consideration of Sisters and Nurses, from whom he expected keen observation and accurate reports on the result of his treatment, commanded interest and devotion. In those prehistoric days, Miss Darbyshire had not begun her distinguished nursing career.

Hereby hangs a tale! One of Dr. Barlow's idiosyncrasies was his objection to washing his hands in the little basin which in those primitive times (56 years ago) was carried round by the staff nurse. Naughty students had a bet that he would never do it. One day Sister herself offered the basin and towel, the while inviting a reply to a debatable question on diet.

Ha, ha; the boys lost their bet!—ED.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)