

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.

THANKS FROM JAPAN.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.
Société de la Croix-Rouge du Japon,
Tokio,
December 13th, 1937.

To Mrs. Bedford Fenwick,
London, W.1, England.

MADAM,—Having learned that you were so kind as to show our Miss Natsuye Inouye, delegate to the Congress of the International Council of Nurses, held in London last July, things of interest, and to accord her a warm hospitality, when she visited your town, I, on behalf of the Japanese Red Cross Society, now wish to express my sincere thanks for every courtesy you extended to her.

I remain, Yours cordially,
N. NAKAGAWA,
Vice-President.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE NETHERLANDS.

Nationale Bond van Verplegenden,
Amsterdam,
December 22nd, 1937.

DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,—

In our last meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Nurses' Association of the Netherlands, the record of your work as stated in the November issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING was read, and I was asked to express to you our very hearty congratulations with this, your Jubilee, but also to express our deep felt thanks to you, as the founder of nurses' organisations all over the world, for the arduous work you have accomplished for the status of nurses.

We regretted very much indeed that the date of this Jubilee had not come earlier to our knowledge, so that we were unable to express these feelings at the proper time.

We hope that you will believe the real admiration which prompted this letter all the same.

Yours respectfully,
L. VAN HOGENDORP, President.

THANKS TO ELECTORS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.
Crumpsall Hospital,
Manchester, 8.

DEAR MADAM,—I wish to thank most sincerely, all those who supported my nomination to the General Nursing Council.

I feel very honoured to be elected, and shall do all in my power to be of assistance to the Council in all matters which come under their consideration.

I hope the experience which I have gained in general training of nurses and midwives, and dealing with long-time cases, will be of service to the Council, and also the experience gained from being on the Panel of Registered Examiners from the beginning of the State Registration of Nurses.

A. BURGESS.

THE RETENTION FEE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am astonished to find how many nurses, including some who offered themselves for election to the new General Nursing Council for England and Wales, are in favour of the abolition of the Annual Retention Fee, which must be paid if their names are to be inserted in the State Register of Nurses.

Setting aside the fact that it augurs ill for their professional pride if they do not think it worth while to pay two shillings a year to maintain their professional status, can they not see that with a profession like nursing, in which the members are constantly changing their addresses, the Register of Nurses built up with so much care would speedily become a useless publication? Even the Central Midwives Board found the difficulty of keeping an accurate Roll, and midwives as a rule settle down and remain in a locality and build up a practice. Nurses, on the contrary, are frequently moving, whether as they gain promotion and obtain sisters' and higher posts, or if they go abroad in search of adventure and new experience.

This was realised when the Nurses' Registration Bill was before Parliament both by the promoters of the Bill and by our legislators, and for that reason the payment of a very small annual retention fee was included in its provisions.

Is it too much to hope that those who benefit so greatly by the passing of the Nurses' Registration Act will see and appreciate this point? It is not primarily the income which the General Nursing Council receives from the Retention Fees that matters, though this is important, but the maintenance of a correct Register. Every registered nurse should willingly pay the Retention Fee to secure this result.

I am, Dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
STATE REGISTERED NURSE.

THE PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON NURSING SERVICES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

Norwood Hospital for Children,
Elder Road, W. Norwood, S.E.27.
December 16th, 1937.

DEAR MADAM,—You invite the opinion of members of the Nursing profession on the personnel of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services.

What of the vast Municipal Nursing Service of the country? Just one representative, a Staff Nurse.

Why not a Matron of one of the large training schools, or a Principal Matron or a Matron-in-Chief who deal daily with the difficulties of recruitment.

And more than all, independent members of accredited nursing organisations. Or are none of our nursing organisations accredited?

Believe me,
Yours faithfully,
EDITH L. JOHNS.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Practical Experience Necessary.

Fever Nurse writes: "The typhoid epidemic at Croydon is being very thoroughly inquired into. Two things are apparent—(1) that divided authority is incompatible with efficiency, and (2) that the death rate of 13 per cent. is abnormally high. Our student nurses lack the experience of these cases in the majority of general hospitals—facilities for a course in the nursing of infectious diseases should be made compulsory in a four years' course of training."

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Is the Official Organ of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. Price 7s. annually, including postage. Apply, MANAGER, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR FEBRUARY.

What are the causes of ptomaine poisoning, the symptoms and treatment?

We regret we are unable to award a prize this month, no paper of sufficient merit having been received.

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