

## 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.*

## ÉCOLE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.  
Maison de Santé Protestante de Bordeaux.

MADAM,—We have felt deeply honoured to see that you so kindly consecrated a whole column to our school book in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of December, 1937.

We are very grateful to you for the way you have written of our book and very touched by what you say of Dr. Hamilton.

I have translated your article and had it inserted into our magazine.

I was indeed happy to have the privilege of meeting you at the International Congress this summer, which was a marvel of organisation, and I admire your enthusiasm which carried everything before it and is an example to all young nurses.

Since the Congress I have had the satisfaction of sending two of my graduates to England to perfect their knowledge of nursing at St. Thomas' Hospital.

May I offer you my very best wishes for 1938, and I hope that as you appreciate so well our cooking we shall have the honour of receiving you again this year.

Yours sincerely,  
M. CORNET-AUQUIER,

*Directrice.*

## THANKS TO ELECTORS, G.N.C.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

The Association of Nurses,  
12, Great Ormond Street, London, W.C.1.

DEAR MADAM,—I should be most grateful if you would extend the courtesy of your columns to me in order that I may convey my thanks to all those nurses who voted for me in the General Nursing Council election.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,  
THORA SILVERTHORNE, S.R.N.,  
*General Secretary.*

## BRITISH NURSES FOR OVERSEAS—NEGLECT OF PATIENTS AT HOME.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—During the shortage of nurses, from which we are suffering in Great Britain, how is it that the Society for the Overseas Settlement of British Women are encouraging nurses to emigrate to South Africa? It is reported that of the settlers sent out to the Union of South Africa, Rhodesia and Kenya many are hospital nurses.

Twenty-four nurses are being recruited for the Johannesburg General Hospital and 20 for the Groote Schuur Hospital in Capetown, which was opened by the Governor-General on January 31. The matron of this hospital, Miss Pike, went out to South Africa under the auspices of the Society 15 years ago.

Speaking as a matron distracted for the need of probationers and trained nurses, surely South Africa can supply its own nurses—especially as British Nurses are made to learn Afrikaans and have difficulty in obtaining the most lucrative posts in that Dominion. We hear much of the grievances of nurses; how about the matrons? Nervous breakdown from worry is on the increase—as many sick people suffer from neglect.

Yours truly,  
MATRON OF A MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL.

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

## Qualifications on the State Register.

*Certificated Bart's Nurse* writes: "One thing thousands of nurses owe you gratitude for—and I was glad to be reminded of it on 'Jubilee Day'—was the insertion of our qualifications during the term of grace, on the State Register, which the majority of matrons on the first G.N.C. proposed to deprive us of. After seventeen years we still are proud to be able to appear on the Register as 'Certificated' Nurses, with the name of our schools attached. Now that existing nurses are entered as 'By Examination,' where should we be if that unjust proposal had succeeded, and we had been deprived of our educational status? also, after examination. I am grateful to you and your supporters on the first G.N.C. for preventing our degradation so unjustly attempted."

## Youth and the Natural Law of Progress.

*Just Registered* writes: "I was greatly privileged to be at your Jubilee Celebration—I shall never forget it, nor your statement *re* pioneers. 'We have lived through the most evolutionary years of nursing education and advancement—it is the duty of youth as it arises to advance with the natural law of progress.' The pioneers seem to have done so much in the past half century that there does not appear to be much for us to do—not great things like State Registration and International Organization, etc."

[There is always devotion to care of the patients and preservation of high professional honour.—Ed.]

## It is an Inspiring Life.

*A Council Delegate* writes: "Why cannot we form a Committee of our National Council to consider nursing conditions. I note from our Constitution that the Member Associations are now forty-five strong and composed of nearly every type of nurses' organisation. Surely by combination we might do something to help to encourage the right type of girl to realise the satisfaction and happiness of being a nurse. It is an inspiring life, every action of which may benefit others, young and old. So much that is written is so demoralising I don't wonder it discourages girls from attempting to live for others and not just for themselves."

## The Dear Animals.

*A Lover of Animals* writes: "So pleased to read your little pars about 'the dear animals' of which I am a great lover. I always enquire from would-be probationers 'Do you love animals?' and am terribly tempted to disqualify those who appear indifferent to them. Both matrons under whom I trained kept a dog. Now, of course, in these aseptic days this is not permissible. The streets are now no longer enriched with the sight of magnificent horses—high-stepping darlings—and if it were not for the changing of the Guard and the mounted police our city children would never see a really well-groomed horse—the most beautiful of animals."

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## PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR MARCH.

In what common conditions may Ascites develop? How would you prepare a patient for paracentesis abdominis?

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