

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.

Every scrap of opinion which is expressed by Miss Lavinia L. Dock is of value and importance to the nursing world. We publish the following letter received from her recently from U.S.A. with the utmost pleasure.

August 1st, 1939.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR DYNAMOS,—The B.J.N. is always so full of interest that every time I read it I compose in my mind a long, discursive letter which I finally conclude would hardly seem to make sense, because the issues are so immediately urgent and also complicated.

However, I will praise and love you for your never-fading thought of the "dear animals." I think it is so remarkable that you can think of their problems even when you are burdened with those of a whole profession—country—even world. Now, that you could take up the cause of those poor ill-treated chickens struck me as being most significant. And I do hope they have been rescued. Never did I hear of any such treatment.

Then, too, you can stop to give the belief of the distinguished veterinarian about the brains of animals. Of course, all animal-lovers agree with him and have always thought the same.

You know that Agnosiz declared his belief that animals all had souls; not only the higher animals, but lowly ones like the toad, turtle and others. Perhaps his opinion and that of the vet. are really the same in different words.

The whole world is so askew to-day that it is no wonder that there are nursing controversies. I don't feel capable of judging them.

I do feel sure there is a place for the "practical" partly trained nurse, but am sure also that it will all be done in the wrong way if done by men.

But I can suggest a long-range view that seems to me an explanation, at any rate, if nothing else.

It seems to me that circumstances and times point to a gradual, oncoming change in the whole approach to the question of health and illness.

It seems as if the emphasis in the future will be placed more and more upon *prevention* of disease—less upon its cure, because there will not be so much to be cured.

We know now that most acute diseases and many chronic ones may be prevented. These are exactly the ones that now require the most skilled care.

Prevention, on the other hand, will require great numbers of highly educated, scientifically trained intelligences combined with the nursing skill of to-day, but there will not be so many bedside cases; there will be much more careful guarding of health. I believe this will attract the very ones you wish to see in the nursing profession, and that there will be congenial and appropriate work for all—perhaps in the next age!

The physicians will be chiefly responsible if the wrong nurse is sent to cases in the future, and I should say that the physician in charge of the diphtheria case mentioned in the last Journal was to blame for not giving strict orders and also for not finding hospital treatment, for the child if the family could not pay a nurse. Let the doctor take the responsibility now.

"Blame it all on Napoleon."

Ever so much love to you all,

Yours,

L. L. D.

THE DUKE-FINGARD INHALATION TREATMENT.

Edgewood, Blossomfield Road, Solihull.
August 2nd, 1939.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have read with much interest the article on the Duke-Fingard Inhalation Treatment for Asthma in the July issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

Thinking the information may be of interest and service to some of your readers I am writing to say that having unsuccessfully exhausted all forms of treatment and when nearly reduced to desperation, I heard of the Fingard treatment, and embarked upon it with a very open mind and not much hope.

That was 3½ years ago, and the result has been a complete cure. There was everything against the treatment except a will and determination to carry it out with the most meticulous care and thoroughness.

To this end Mr. Fingard personally gave unreserved patience and care to my numerous enquiries about details and procedure. The course lasted three months and treatment was taken every day without fail from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.

If any of your readers in this district would like any information I can give them, or would like to inspect the apparatus itself, I shall be very pleased to do what I can if they will write or phone me.

Needless to say, I have no connection or interest with Mr. Duke-Fingard or his associates (except as a very grateful patient) and it should be noted the treatment is not available except through the medium of a qualified Medical Practitioner.—Yours truly,

J. N. R. HANNAM.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

"As I feel the need of the human element in choosing a career, nursing would have been my choice; but now that it is to be flooded with uneducated persons, I would like to support your supposition that the control of a roll of semi-trained women by the General Nursing Council will discourage intelligent, well-educated girls from entering nurse training schools for a three or four years' course of training. A young friend of mine negotiating for a three years' course has already decided to choose a career where her standing will be secure, as she realises that the proposed betrayal of the Registered Nurse is bound to lead to further degradation in the future."

"Now We are Seven."

"I am working in a hospital where there are seven grades of women workers in the wards—Matron, Sister, Staff Nurse, Probationer, Assistant Nurse, Orderly and Ward-Maid—to say nothing of the Sister Tutor. Every grade is free by a month's notice to depart in peace excepting the Probationer—and it is getting more difficult every day to secure them."

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PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR OCTOBER.

Describe the reasons for the operation for Caesarian Section, and the subsequent nursing treatment required.

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