

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.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.

224-6-8, GREAT PORTLAND STREET,
LONDON, W.1.
August 25th, 1942.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am obliged for the copy of your August issue which you were good enough to send me, and for the editorial paragraph you were good enough to publish regarding the vacancies at our school at Court Grange, Abbotskerswell, Devon, for retarded blind children. You will be glad, I am sure, to know that both the posts have now been filled.

Thanking you for your courtesy in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

W. MCG. EAGAR,
Secretary-General.

THE "WOMEN FOR WESTMINSTER" MOVEMENT.

QUEEN MARY'S HOME FOR NURSES,
WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL, S.W.1.
August 17th, 1942.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am enclosing a folder advocating the "Women for Westminster" Movement.

This Movement needs the support of all types and classes of women; for reasons stated in the folder, I am particularly interested in publicising the Movement in my own profession.

I believe a small article has appeared in your paper about it. Would it be possible to include a longer and more comprehensive article in a future edition, written either by myself, or by a member of your staff, in which case further information can be obtained from 14, Dartmouth Street, S.W.1?

Thanking you for your consideration and trusting you will co-operate with advertising this much-needed Movement.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

ANGELA MARY RAVASIO.

[We thank Miss Ravasio for her letter. We are interested in this progressive movement and have brought it before the Council of the British College of Nurses for its consideration.—Ed.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

"Professional Ruin."

F.B.C.N. writes: "I regret to note in last month's issue the many failures in the Final State examination of the G.N.C. It is indeed serious. I do hope, as soon as the legal affairs of our British College of Nurses are in working order, we shall do all in our power to promote an educational system which will secure co-operation between tutors and examiners on a just system for pupils.

"The amusing report of her examination by Miss Doreen Swinburne, in her arresting book, 'Hospital Nurse,' is sad evidence of a lack of organised standards of examination. Sound practical teaching and a fair examination should be compulsory. There is no joke in being plucked after three years' hard work in the wards. It means professional ruin. It is a pity the Royal College of Nursing, failing to construct a sound policy of efficiency, is content to side-step on standards, and adopt make-shifts which will only add injury to insult.

"Different standards of nursing for rich and the helpless poor are an insult to humanity, so no wonder it is proposed to train the 'sheep and the goats' in different institutions. Imagine the ill feeling between these two classes when competing for a livelihood."

A Little Bit of History,

F.B.C.N., Scotland, writes: "I am much too far away since travelling became so difficult to enjoy the College Library, but shall hope when this world carnage is put a stop to, to see the wonderful gifts reported in the last issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. The picture of West Hill Lodge, Highgate, is beautifully old world; we can imagine how Florence Nightingale enjoyed its seclusion and charm. Thank you much for reproducing it in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, which is a source of great pleasure and inspiration to me monthly."

The Fatal Stupidity of Bureaucracy.

An Australian Nurse writes: "I read Miss Lavinia Dock's letter with gratitude. Surely it would be impossible in any Allied country, excepting this, for the hell of Hong Kong to be ignored. Bureaucracy appears capable of fatal stupidity—the Australians here do not mean to forget it when we go home."

[The day will come when "the hell of Hong Kong" must be paid for. Not a word yet of the fate of those patriotic young nurses. We have them in mind.—Ed.]

"Musical Mamie"

A Sister Tutor writes: "In my present post, so difficult is it to obtain educated probationers that those I have to teach find it most difficult to learn. Surely at the bottom of all this Assistant Nurse controversy is the fact that our educational standards in this country are most elementary. One thing I try to teach my pupils is how to speak—as apparently by some imitative means they mostly use a most metallic tone which is very objectionable in the sick room. We have elocution classes, and although I am nicknamed 'Musical Mamie' behind my back, a good many of these 'peacocky' voices disappear."

"Give Me Hospital all the Time."

Student Nurse writes: "I am in my second year's training and I am sick of hearing outsiders criticising nursing conditions in hospitals, of which they know nothing.

"It is a fact which cannot be denied that, whilst people outside, owing to war rules and regulations (many of them unnecessary) are suffering great inconvenience, we people in hospital have every comfort—plenty of food, clean clothes and bedding, hot water, light, warmth, and plenty of soap; and if there is sometimes shortage of staff a bit of extra work is no hardship. I am specially thankful for plenty of milk, tea, and sugar, which in a community never seems to fail. We feel the pinch when we go home, where supplies have to be strictly limited. Give me hospital all the time."

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THE PRIZE COMPETITION.

We much regret no Paper of sufficient merit has been received for publication.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR OCTOBER.

Describe the Composition and Functions of Blood, and its use in Transfusion Therapy.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)