

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 WAR OFFICE, CHELTENHAM.
28th April, 1942.

AN ARMY COUNCIL INSTRUCTION,

A.M.D.4.

The Editor,

BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING,
19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

I shall be very glad if you will contradict in your Nursing Paper the announcement made in the Public Press that Army Sisters are being lent wholesale to Civilian Hospitals. This gives the impression that no more Q.A.I.M.N.S. Reserve are required, which is quite incorrect.

We have always been willing to allow Sisters to help locally in any Civilian Hospital, but they could not, and still cannot, be lent at a distance from their assembling places.

Will you please continue to inform the whole Nursing Profession through your paper that Q.A.I.M.N.S. Reserve are still urgently required to staff Medical Units for Active Service?

I take this opportunity of informing you that it has been decided that Q.A.I.M.N.S. and the T.A.N.S. shall obey an Army Council Instruction which lays down that in mixed units, within the unit only, all members of the Army and Women's Forces, which includes all the Sisters, shall salute, and before very long orders will be issued for this to be put into force. This has been found necessary because, in units where only one Sister is serving, every Officer was being saluted, except the Sister. We also find that the A.T.S. do not know what to do when they meet a Sister, and cannot understand why she does not return the salute.

I hope that your paper will encourage the idea that Sisters should be willing to take the rough with the smooth in accepting a full commission.

I would stress that saluting will only be within the unit, that is, in the proximity of the hospital, and not, as a general rule, on the streets, but, of course, if a Sister is saluted in the streets she will return this courtesy in the same way. In indoor uniform she will be considered to be "uncovered" and will not salute.

K. H. JONES,
Matron-in-Chief, Q.A.I.M.N.S.

NO BREACH OF CONFIDENCE,

We note in the paper used by the Royal College of Nursing as its official organ that the following par. appears in the report of a Council Meeting, in the April 25th issue. "The Council expressed their concurrence with the opinion of Lord Horder concerning the publication of comments on a confidential interim report concerning the assistant nurse by the Royal College of Nursing Reconstruction Committee in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. The Council decided to make a strong protest against this breach of confidence."

"STRONG PROTEST" AND REPLY.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF NURSING,
Henrietta Place,
Cavendish Square, London, W.1.
April 21st, 1942.

The Editor,

BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING,
19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7.

DEAR MADAM,—I have been instructed by Lord Horder, Chairman of the Nursing Reconstruction Committee, to

write to you regarding the leading article in the March issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, which refers to a report from the Assistant Nurse Sub-Committee of the Nursing Reconstruction Committee. Lord Horder was very surprised to see an allusion to this report, as it was a confidential document in draft form only and had not been fully considered or accepted by the main Committee.

The public appearance of such a report is also particularly unfortunate as it means that a breach of confidence has been committed by one of the members of the Committee, each of whom had been asked by the Chairman to regard as confidential any material discussed at the various Committees until such time as the final report was released.

The Chairman also feels that the publication of this material in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is likely to prejudice the final report of the Committee and that other nursing journals and the national press may well misunderstand the position.

Lord Horder trusts that you will kindly refrain from any further allusions in your Journal to this matter until such time as the Royal College of Nursing issues the final report for publication.

Yours faithfully,

FRANCES G. GOODALL, *Secretary.*

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING,
19, Queen's Gate,
London, S.W.7.

April 25th, 1942.

To Miss Frances G. Goodall,

Secretary, Royal College of Nursing.

MADAM,—I beg to acknowledge your letter dated April 21st, 1942, in which you convey to me expressions of opinion from Lord Horder, Chairman of the Nursing Reconstruction Committee of the Royal College of Nursing.

I shall be obliged if in the future Lord Horder desires to criticise my conduct as Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING that he will do so direct.

Moreover, Registered Nurses who demand self-determination and who value legal status and economic stability, and who are therefore in opposition to the degrading of and destruction of efficient nursing standards, advocated by the Royal College of Nursing in its campaign for legal registration of semi-trained Assistant Nurses, intend to use every means in their power to expose and oppose the policy of the Royal College in the campaign, which, together with the employers of nurses, they are actively promoting throughout the country at the present time.

To remain quiescent until the policy of the Royal College is attained cannot be entertained for a moment by the Registered Nurses, who mean to avail themselves of every means in their power to save the sick from the ministrations of dangerously inefficient persons.

I feel sure this would be the attitude of Lord Horder should the medical profession be attacked with like purpose.

Yours faithfully,

ETHEL GORDON FENWICK, *Editor.*

[In these meanwhiles, pending any further communication from Lord Horder, we can assure him that his surmise that a member of his Sub-Committee considering the status of the Assistant Nurse has communicated its deliberations to us is quite erroneous.—ED.]

THE "BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING" AND
THE "MIDWIFE" SUPPLEMENT, FOUNDED 1888,
is the Official Organ of the National Council of Nurses
of Great Britain. Price 7s. annually, including postage.
Apply, MANAGER, 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR JUNE.

Describe the Nursing Care in Colostomy.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)