

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.

A SPLENDID EXAMPLE.

R.C.N. Hospital, Fleet Mail Office,
Halifax, N.S., Canada.

August 30, 1945.

THE EDITOR, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING,
19, Queen's Gate, London.

DEAR MADAM,—In your June issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING we read with interest your article "Bread and Marg."

The Naval Nursing Sisters of H.M.C.S. Stadacona, Halifax, N.S., felt that they would like to contribute something to ease the stress of a fellow member of the profession, and we enclose herewith a bank order for the sum of fifteen pounds.

This we would like to be used for extra comforts or food, as you find possible and see fit.

Our best wishes for the health and welfare of this Sister are extended from the members of this service.

Yours very truly,

A. R. FELLOWES, Principal Matron,
Royal Canadian Navy.

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

September 24, 1945.

TO PRINCIPAL MATRON A. R. FELLOWES,
Royal Canadian Navy.

DEAR MADAM,—I, this morning, received your most kind letter dated August 30th enclosing a cheque for fifteen pounds, in reply to our appeal under the heading of "Bread and Marg" for a military Sister now old and somewhat indigent.

I cannot express to you our gratitude for the generosity of the Nursing Members of your Service, and beg to express to you our warmest thanks.

The Sister for whom we made the appeal is upwards of eighty years of age, unable of course to work, and at present living in very restricted circumstances.

Do please express to the contributors to this most handsome cheque my warm personal thanks, and also the gratitude of the nurses who are helping me to alleviate the restricted circumstances under which the Sister is living.

We are trying to get her into a comfortable home, but such places are almost unobtainable under the present financial condition of the country.

I beg to remain,

Yours very sincerely and gratefully,

ETHEL G. FENWICK, *Hon. Editor.*

(Founder, International Council of Nurses.)

HONOUR TO WHOM HONOUR IS DUE.

125, Parkside Drive,
Watford, Herts.

DEAR MADAM,—With great pleasure I have read in your BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING the graceful appreciation of my Cousin Sophy Munro—and how well she has deserved it!

Few outside our family circle ever knew that it was primarily due to her that the State Registration was brought before Lord Amptill, and so introduced into the House of Lords.

Yours very truly,

HELEN MUNRO.

[When we think of the devotion of matrons and nurses

in the past in their valiant demand for the safety of the sick, it is some consolation for the apparent apathy of the nursing profession at the present professional crisis.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Mixed Bathing in Hospital Pools.

In the letters received *re* the "Non-fraternisation with medical students" of nurses at the London Hospital, there is apparently strong difference of opinion on the question of mixed bathing with medical students in the hospital swimming pool. We learn that this is a common practice in many hospitals—the Matrons approving. In others it is strongly objected to. One mother writes:—"I have removed my young daughter from the hospital where the mixed bathing of medical and nursing students is a common practice, as I am of opinion that discipline should be carefully maintained in hospitals, if both sexes are to be free of entanglements. It's no good failing to realise that propinquity induces romantic relations to the detriment of serious work."

Professional Apathy to Blame.

From a distracted Matron.—"I am settling down fairly well; there is plenty of uphill work to be done. You have no conception of the type of person now presenting themselves for training. They have neither education, breeding, conscience nor intelligence. Neither have they any appearance as a nurse either in or out of uniform. Truly we have suffered eclipse as a profession, and Nursing is now no better than domestic service."

[Of course Lord Horder and other influential persons who supported the Brown-Bevin Bill for the de-grading of nursing standards in 1943 are primarily to blame for the nursing collapse, but we do not exonerate those Matrons and Medical and Nursing officials who promoted the crushing of nursing opinion in Parliament.

What we have got to do for the sake of the sick is to be up and active now that we have a new Parliament and agitate for all we are worth to regain what we have lost, mainly through professional apathy and ignorance. It is easy to blame others—but people are governed as they deserve—and having received what the late Dr. Bezly Thorne termed "a snob in the eye," we must realise our own futility, and prove our professional worth.—ED.]

A Three Years' Term of Training.

From a Ward Sister.—"Why cannot we revert to the reasonable term of three years' training—it is ample for all practical purposes, and one only gets stale with grinding on for four years. Special branches of nurse's work can be taken after Registration. We could then cease inveigling young women as Assistant Nurses, which is most unjust. These women are made to sign contracts before they realise what they are doing, and all the flattery and humbug addressed to them by doctors, matrons and paid officials does not alter the fact that they are being segregated as an inferior class of nurse. It is to be hoped the Minister of Health will realise this and put a stop to it."

Britain for the British.

From a Worn Out Home Sister.—"We have had more breakdowns in the health of our nurses during the war, and lost more probationers than ever before. Of course we have all been seriously overworked, but it is the poor quality of food supplied by the tradesmen which is largely to blame—meat, milk, vegetables, everything is below standard, and no use complaining. Why is this country overrun by so many foreigners? Thousands of Germans in this district appear to have every comfort, and our worn out men unable to find homes."

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