

THE EDITOR'S LETTER-BOX.

Peter Bent Brigham Hospital.

To the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.

SIR,—In your first notice of this hospital in your issue of November 4, you speak of the toilets not having the "cut off." All our toilets are seat-vented, and this draft is made sure by having a fan connected with it. This same fan attends to the hoods in the duty-room and in the laboratory. The toilet-rooms are vented through the seat vents. No odour ever escapes into the room, much less into the corridor. It is a pretty universal custom in America to have the toilets open from the corridor. There is another nurses' toilet in each typical ward building in the basement, so that a nurse can always reach a toilet by going up or down one flight.

In the fourteen-bedded ward the framework is of iron, and the roof is of plank, plastered on the under side. This plain ironwork was left out in the open-air space of the ward at my request. The architects had intended to fur down that much, but I preferred to have the additional air space in the room, even if I had to have the iron framework there too.

We have a granolithic dado, five feet high, extending throughout the hospital. It is flush with the iron-door frames. This dado takes the hard knocks of the daily use. You might mention the absence of marble in our operating building. This dado takes the place of it. It is made of half Portland and Keene cement.

No mention is made of the beds being on wheels so that stretchers are not necessary, or the arrangement of the dining-rooms for all the help around one serving-room, or the sterilising hopper for typhoid stools, or the chair beds. So far as I am aware, we are the only hospital that has them. We have some thirty of them. I only mention these things so that if you wish to make your article longer you will have means at hand to do it. The rubber tyres on the wheels of our beds are made practically of canvas, with just enough rubber in to hold the canvas together, so that they never dent. We have used them now for three years. I am not aware that one of them has yet worn out.—Very sincerely yours,

H. B. HOWARD, Superintendent.

Boston, October 31, 1916.

The College of Nursing, Limited, and State Registration of Nurses.

To the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.

SIR,—We find that there is an impression that the action of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses in breaking off negotiations with the College of Nursing will in some way hamper the activities of the Council, and delay their efforts to obtain State recognition for the nursing profession. This is not the fact.

The College stands for State registration, and intends to use every means in its power to obtain it. By far the most effective step that can be taken in

this direction is for the nurses themselves to continue to put their names on the Register, so as to hasten the time when the scheme will be placed upon the democratic basis to which it is our desire to attain.

We mean also to endeavour to enlist such support from the public as will justify the Council in preparing complete plans, upon which operations can begin as soon as ever the war is over, for a building worthy to be the headquarters of the profession.

Such an Act and such a College will be a worthy memorial to the countless women who have served their country in our hospitals at home and abroad, often at the cost of health, and too often of life itself.

Unlike the Bill of 1914, which has already been before Parliament, and which establishes a Provisional Council, and keeps it in existence until the "Lord President of the Council certifies that the task of forming a Register of persons entitled to be registered is sufficiently advanced to admit of an election of direct representatives of registered nurses," the College Bill makes the existing Register of the College the first legal register, under which the nurses will proceed themselves to appoint their representatives upon the permanent Council so soon as the Provisional Council has finished its task of framing the rules under which the Act is to be carried out.

Under these circumstances we venture to hope that the nurses throughout the country, who have come forward with so much unanimity to support the College, will not relax their efforts; that they will interest their friends in it; and that they will sustain the Council in the prolonged struggle that lies before them in their endeavour to gain for nurses the legal recognition and professional status which they have so long desired.—We are, Sir, yours faithfully,

(Signed) ARTHUR STANLEY, Chairman.

A. B. Baillie,	W. Minet,
E. Barton,	E. W. Mowat,
J. Cantlie,	E. M. Musson,
R. Cox-Davies,	M. E. Ray,
A. C. Gibson,	M. E. Sparshott,
A. W. Gill,	A. Lloyd Still,
J. Glaister,	S. A. Swift,
A. Hughes,	H. G. Turney,
A. McIntosh,	C. E. Vincent,
J. Melrose,	Jane Walker,
Comyns Berkeley	E. Cooper Perry
(Hon. Treasurer),	(Hon. Secretary).

6 Vere Street, Cavendish Square, W.,
November 22, 1916.

Decorations for Hospital Secretaries.

To the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.

SIR,—Your leading article on the subject of Knight-hoods for Hospital Secretaries, and the comments on it which appeared in your succeeding issues (THE HOSPITAL, November 4, p. 78, and November 11, p. 127), have