

## THE EDITOR'S LETTER-BOX.

### Honours and the Nursing Profession.

To the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.

Territorial Force Nursing Service.

No. 3 General Hospital. County of London.  
Miss Barton, Chelsea Infirmary,  
Principal Matron. S.W.,

January 24, 1916.

SIR,—My attention has been called to the article in THE HOSPITAL on the award of the R.R.C. under the heading of "Honours and the Nursing Profession." As the whole criticism centres round my name, I would be glad if you will publish this note to say that I do not agree in the least with the criticism. Your leader-writer is overlooking the fact that the R.R.C. is given for military nursing, and not for Poor-Law work. The matron of the 3rd London Hospital, who was selected by His Majesty for the honour, has rendered invaluable service in organising and superintending the nursing of the 3rd London Hospital, and I am very pleased with His Majesty's choice.—Yours very truly,

ELEANOR C. BARTON.

[Miss Barton's letter is worthy of her high and deserved reputation. She, however, misses the point. The paper on which she writes sets forth that she is principal matron of the 3rd London General Hospital. Twenty-three matrons of the Territorial Force Nursing Service received the R.R.C., of whom seventeen were principal matrons. Miss Barton is the only principal matron representing the Poor-Law Nursing Service in the Territorial Force. For the reasons stated in our article last week the list of honours loses in authority and dignity by the omission of the representative of the Poor-Law Nursing Service within the Force. We are fully conscious of the invaluable services rendered by Miss Holden, the matron of the 3rd London General Hospital, on whom the R.R.C. has been conferred, but this well-deserved honour in no way affects the undoubted claims of the Principal Matron of No. 3 General Hospital to the R.R.C. for the reasons stated.—ED. THE HOSPITAL.]

### Robbing the Hospitals: The Homœopathic Hospital Case.

To the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.

SIR,—I entirely agree with what Lord Knutsford says in his letter published in THE HOSPITAL, and in the hope that other hospitals may take warning from our unfortunate experience I give you the following particulars of the fraud.

The thief stole such amounts of the cash as would exactly tally with the amount of a few cheques at the close of the year, and held those cheques back till after the bankers had given their certificate of the balance at December 31. The certificate therefore agreed with the balance required by the hospital books. He then issued the cheques, and in due course they appeared in the pass-book as paid in January. He then, before the audit, erased these cheques in January and inserted them in the pass-book as paid in December.

The auditors ticked them off in the pass-book but did not check the casts in the pass-book; had they done so the fraud would have been discovered at the first audit after it was committed.

When the cash and cheques were given to him to pay in he exhibited the pay-in slip and counterfoil properly made out, but afterwards made out another pay-in slip, omitting the cash he meant to steal. The remedy is never

to let the clerk who keeps the books and must have access to the pass-book have any handling of the cash. This, of course, I have now arranged, but this particular clerk had been in the service for eleven years and was entirely trusted.

If the auditors made a practice of checking the pass-book casts such a fraud would be discovered without fail.

Pearce was tried at Bow Street last Friday, pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment.—Yours faithfully,

R. H. CAIRD, Chairman.  
London Homœopathic Hospital.

4 Queen's Gate Place, S.W., January 24, 1916.

### The Western Hospital, Torquay.

To the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.

SIR,—Referring to your Note on the work of this hospital, on p. 338 of the January 15 issue, the explanation of the apparently small amount of dividends is that the dividends on the £5,299 legacy under the will of the late Mr. Lavers have to be shown as "Subscription X.L.," and not lumped into one. Still, I can see that it would be desirable for public information that the item "X.L." should be explained in future.—Yours faithfully,

W. F. MANLEY.

January 21, 1916.

### The Women's Maternity Unit for Russia.

To the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.

SIR,—Russia is labouring to alleviate the unspeakable sufferings of the millions of peasants who are refugees from the war zone. You have already reported that the National Union of Women's Suffragè Societies has initiated a movement to give an opportunity for the women of Great Britain to share in some small degree the efforts of our Russian sisters. The first unit will start for Petrograd immediately to take over the maternity hospital now being built for it by the Tatiana Committee. Two medical women, with matron and fully trained nursing staff, will take medical stores and comforts and clothes for the women, children, and infants, and they hope, besides the sixteen beds in the hospital, to be able to undertake a large out-patient department. The hospital will have the gracious protection of the Empress Alexandra and the active patronage of the Grand Duchess Kyril and the Lady Georgiana Buchanan, the British Ambassadors. May we, as patrons of the work in this country, plead earnestly for support from all those whose hearts have been wrung by the awful tales of misery among the peasants, who are called upon to suffer all that we have escaped by being further from the battle line.

Surely, when we think of our own griefs and anxieties, we should also remember that these people too have their nearest and dearest in equal peril, and yet have the added horror of seeing their homes and all their possessions destroyed and their little ones sick and dying around them. We do not necessarily speak as members of the society which is organising these units, but as British women feeling strongly the claim of suffering and glad to join in a work which promises in so practical a way to be of use.

Should not those who start forth be able to carry with them the assurance that at least there are funds enough to keep the hospital going for six months? The Tatiana Committee have granted 1,000 roubles a month towards upkeep. We must provide at least as much—namely, about £100 a month—besides the heavy initial cost of salaries, outfit, journeys, and medical stores. Donations should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Russian Unit, 14 Great Smith Street, Westminster.—(Signed) L. E. BEAUFORT, CONSUELO MARLBOROUGH, OLIVE CAIRNS, MAUD SELBORNE, ISABEL SOMERSET, MARY MURRAY, V. WOLKOFF, GERTRUDE KINNEL, L. B. ALDRICH BLAKE, MARY SCHARLIEB, LOUISE VINCRODOFF.