

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this department. All communications must be accompanied by name and address to ensure publication. Several letters are being held for lack of space, but these will appear in a later issue of the JOURNAL; many are abridged for the same reason.

VOTING BY MAIL

Dear Editor: Voting by mail is only allowable when special provision is made for so voting. One cannot argue that because voting by mail is not prohibited, therefore, it is legal. There are some objections to voting by mail and each organization must decide for itself whether the objections outweigh the advantages or not. The provision which was made for some of those in the service of the United States government to vote by mail, was a temporary expedient resorted to under very unusual conditions. At first thought, it seems only fair to give those members of an organization who are unable to attend a meeting, an opportunity to express their preference on questions that are to be decided, especially in the selection of officers. One of the objections to voting by mail, is that not all of the absent members are reached, and generally only a small proportion of those respond. A greater objection is that when members are not in actual conference, it is impracticable for any individual member to ascertain from any large number, the reasons which have entered into the decision of any question. One whose mind is open to conviction often changes his opinion after hearing the viewpoint of others in the discussion of a question which takes place when members are assembled. These objections are of equal force whether applied to the election of officers by mail or to reaching a decision on a question which can be voted upon by Yes or No. It is true that the merits and demerits of nominees are seldom discussed openly in an assembly, but the informal discussion which invariably takes place among members, tends to a consensus of opinion which is more likely to result in the election of those best fitted for the respective offices than if such interchange of views and opinions does not take place.

Detroit, Mich.

(Mrs.) EMMA A. FOX,

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Women's Clubs.*

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE NEW YORK NURSE PRACTICE ACT

Dear Editor: The proposed nurse bill is supposed to satisfy the nurses by protecting their R.N., and the doctors and public by overcoming the shortage of nurses. I have no doubt but that the shortage would be overcome, because many doctors and people would employ these inferior nurses, called Trained Attendants, but would turning out thousands of them every year help protect the registered nurses? This bill raises the fee of the pupil in a registered school who wishes to take the State Examination for R.N. and it compels the R.N. graduate to register every year. Then it provides a short-term training for uneducated girls, and gives them a certificate of approval with a degree from the Regents. It expects these girls to do the easy and ordinary work, leaving the difficult and desperate cases for the R.N.'s. In New York City, some hospitals are already paying them \$25 a month while training, and all these schools ask is that they can read and write. These girls are actually going out and nursing now. Even if they should be kept from using the letters R.N. they will take the work of the R.N. and their pay.