

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this department. All communications must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer.

### A WORD FROM SIBERIA

DEAR EDITOR: I thought you might be interested to know something of our work in Siberia. We have been in Irkutsk several weeks, having visited prison camps in Omsk and Novo-Nikolajewsk prior to coming here. A commission from the Swedish Red Cross and a Y. M. C. A. worker from America, Mr. Bartholomew, are stationed here doing wonderful work. We have eight nurses in our unit and Dr. Crookston of Pittsburgh is our director.

KATRINA E. HERTZER.

*Irkutsk, Siberia.*

[Later news from Miss Hertzner informs us that she is leaving Siberia, and will be in the United States by the first of April.]

### BETTER STANDARDS FOR PRIVATE DUTY NURSES

DEAR EDITOR: It is interesting that almost every criticism of the private nurse comes from nurses holding institutional positions. Why these nurses feel so superior to private nurses I have yet to learn.

Of course we all realize that the standard of the nursing profession must be raised, but when superintendents clamor for better nurses let them remember that in order to get the work done in hospitals they have admitted uneducated, unrefined girls and graduated them when they should have been dismissed as probationers. That is the main reason for there being so many undesirable nurses who lower the standards. With the superintendent lies the first move toward raising the nursing standard.

My opinion is that a nurses' club having full charge of the registry can do more to eliminate unworthy members of the profession or to bring them up to the A. 1. class than a world-wide organization. We should have a federation of nurses' clubs by which we can strive for the same high ideals and keep in touch with each other.

A. E. O'C.

*Illinois.*

### NURSING IN THE INDIAN SERVICE

DEAR EDITOR: Occasionally we read articles in our journals in regard to nursing among the Indians and I always read such articles with much interest and only wish that more nurses in this work would see fit to exchange items. In traveling to the different schools as I do, I see the conditions and see a great need for, but I am sorry to say, very few nurses. This JOURNAL, no doubt, will be read by a vast army of nurses, both graduates and pupils, some of whom will graduate this spring, and who are now wondering just what line they will follow. Let me say to such that if they are thinking of missionary work, we have a large field right here at home for the nurse who is not afraid to sacrifice and be deprived of some of the comforts and pleasure that city life affords.