

# LETTERS FROM READERS

## Men Nurses A.W.O.L.

Unfortunately, something is lacking in the pending bill for military rank for members of the Army Nurse Corps. This is the inclusion of registered men nurses in the Corps. It is no doubt due to the fact that the men are much less familiar to the public and perhaps to responsible persons. As far as nursing legislation is concerned, registered men nurses are pathetically A.W.O.L.—Absent Without Logic.—T/3D GRADE JOSEPH R. GUERRA.

## Do Students Lack Courtesy

A graduate nurse recently asked me what was happening to the new students. "They seem lacking in respect and common courtesy."

As a student nurse, I have been drilled in professional manners: to stand in the presence of those more experienced and older, to show consideration to members of the medical profession. But since Pearl Harbor! Everyone is in a rush. We have rushed too and shoved and pushed.

One day this mad chaos will end and many of us will be graduate nurses. In preparation for that time, let's remember professional courtesy.—STUDENT NURSE, Chas. S. Wilson Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, New York.

## Exchange for Nurses

I do not think that any nurse should work in the same institution steadily more than two or three years without exchanging with a nurse from another institution. This exchange could help each nurse to broaden her views and learn to work with other people. It could keep her from becoming too biased about *her* methods and *her* school.

Some older nurses resent a younger nurse. They fear that she "knows it all" or thinks she does. They should learn how to accept gracefully the new graduate and be open-minded about her suggestions for doing things differently. And the younger nurses should always be looking for help and suggestions from the more experienced nurses who are naturally older. The new graduate cannot expect to revolutionize a place, but the hospital staff should not be set against new ideas, either.—I. M., R.N., New York.

## Seeing the Country

The word "nurse" in this country means an untrained volunteer, while "the sisters" are the registered nurses. We are located in one of the loveliest sections of the United Kingdom and are using all our spare hours to get around and see the country. On Thanksgiving Day we had exactly the same dinner we'd have had at home—turkey, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, and all the fixings. That afternoon, we gave a lovely tea for our English friends who have invited us to their homes. The mess sergeant turned the kitchen over to our committee; you have never seen daintier sandwiches and cakes!—LIEUTENANT G. F. P., ANC.

## From Nurses on Every Front

We had a most wonderful trip across. The water was calm all the way, so there was no seasickness.

The nurses in this area on the Mediterranean live in a tent city, but the tents have board floors, electric lights, and Army cots. Our food is surprisingly good after the first two days of C ration. Most of us are brown as Indians.—LIEUTENANT B. E. R., ANC.

The *Journal* has proved especially interesting to us now overseas for two years in the South West Pacific Area. It is great to be able to keep in touch, through you, with the nurses at home.—LIEUTENANT ANNE G. THOMSON, ANC.

Our activities are gaining momentum. We check the bomber crews for respiratory infections, first aid and medical equipment and are on hand with the flight surgeon and ambulance in case we're needed when the bombers return. The boys are so grand. Our bicycles are a great help in getting about and enable us to see more of the lovely country hereabouts.—LT. M. R. SALLADE, ANC.

We need the *Journal* here. With only the light of the kerosene lantern we still like to know something of what is going on in the civilized nursing profession. We are really learning to improvise and to test ourselves with the old saying, "A good nurse is one who can do the job well regardless of the obstacles."—SECOND LIEUTENANT DELORIS MAXINE SMITH, ANC.

The *Journal* is the most popular magazine among the nurses overseas since it keeps them in contact with the nursing activities at home as well as their co-workers in other theaters.

We are about to enjoy springtime here in Italy, a period long awaited as we struggled through the long winter months trying to keep warm. In spite of the chilling winds, we could not overlook the beauty of the snow-capped mountains. Now the picture is changing to wild flowers, riotous in color.—FIRST LIEUTENANT FRANCES M. EVERETT, ANC.

Here on the Anzio beachhead we are truly grateful for the *Journal*. It keeps us informed of so many things and there are so many articles about people and places that we know. Our unit has received the Fifth Army Plaque and two clasps for meritorious service at the Venafrò front and on the beachhead. We worked hard and are proud of the citation.

Recently I had a seven-day rest period in Naples, my first leave in fifteen months and I enjoyed every minute of it.—LIEUTENANT M. L. O., ANC.

We don't have a great many copies of the *Journal* in our unit, but the copies we get make the rounds and are greatly enjoyed. We find that they help us keep in touch with nursing at home and abroad.—SECOND LIEUTENANT DELLA BURGER, ANC.

## Correction

Because of a misinterpretation of the biographical data which Mary Everett sent the editors, the note about Miss Everett, which was published with her article in the May issue, page 443, is slightly misleading. Miss Everett taught Red Cross Home Nursing courses part time during 1933 and 1934, not "two years" as indicated in the note.

## Why Not Trust Us?

Once again we announce a well-tested editorial policy. Unsigned communications, regardless of merit, cannot be published. When correspondents do not wish their names published, the editors can be trusted to withhold them from publication.—THE EDITORS.