

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

“ FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE IS DEAD.”

DEAR EDITOR,—When the Vice-Chancellor of the University of London in his Address to the International Nursing Students at Bedford College on June 26th spoke the words: “Florence Nightingale is Dead,” and inferred therefore that her genius has perished in the grave, I longed to rise and refute his material teaching; but may I offer a protest through the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING?

In the grave with its simple inscription at East Wellow the beautiful body through which Florence Nightingale breathed and had her being for 90 years in this world, may now be dust, but who that has through reverence or love come into touch with her flaming spirit believes for a moment that “Florence Nightingale is dead.” Certainly not those of us who are helping to build a world-wide Memorial in her honour for the benefit of mankind through the Florence Nightingale International Foundation. The sacred dust is at Wellow, but the divinity of her mental and spiritual inspiration and teaching is gloriously alive and irrefutable—based as it is on the natural law—and will stand the test of all time.

Yours sincerely,

MARGARET BREAY.