of respect and good manners. It is made worse by the fact that the recipients of this discourtesy are at their most vulnerable.

Respect for patients should be an integral part of nurse training. This is one minor NHS reform that could be introduced without any financial cost.

Jolanta Glaser, London

WHEN WILL THE TABLOIDS TIRE OF OFFENSIVE STEREOTYPES?

When are tabloid newspapers going to tire of the ‘naughty nurse’ fantasy (news December 6)? The *Sun* has produced yet another stereotypical pile of rubbish, this time publicising a 100% Real Nurses calendar.

We have to put up with offensive innuendo from patients and this is not helped by newspapers that deem this type of calendar ‘a bit of harmless fun’.

It is degrading to every one of us who, under difficult circumstances, puts on our uniform with pride because we love what we do and are dedicated to our patients.

Julie Constable, Blarton, Staffordshire

NO ROOM FOR ‘NAUGHTY NURSES’ IN A DIGNIFIED PROFESSION

I read in disbelief that two nurses had posed for a *Sun* calendar (news December 6). I have a question for the nurses who posed for these photographs: how can you preserve patients’ dignity and self-respect when you cannot maintain your own?

Perhaps nurses who feel their pay is insufficient and do not object to being commodified should opt for the porn industry and allow the rest of us to get on with being professionals.

Amanda Gower, Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire

EMERGENCY CARE PRACTITIONER ROLE IS NOW WORKING WELL

As an emergency care practitioner (ECP) in the south west of England, I must reply to the news item ‘Emergency care practitioners will aggravate “inter-professional tension” ’ (news August 30).

Emergency care has changed dramatically over the past few years and patients have benefited greatly from this. Working relationships with allied healthcare professionals have also improved. Initially, there was great resistance to the ECP role, but once colleagues began to realise that it was not going to replace the district nurse or the out-of-hours GP, people began to work as a team. Most ECPs have now forged excellent pathways for care, treatment and referral.

Richard Steggall, Honiton, Devon

BAD MANAGEMENT IS PARTLY TO BLAME FOR POOR PATIENT CARE

I agree totally with Doug Culmer when he points to poor standards of patient care (letters November 29). But I do not share his view that nurses do not deserve a pay rise.

I am a third-year nursing student. There are many good nurses I look up to and would like to emulate. There are also bad nurses who I believe should be removed from the register.

As Mr Culmer rightly says, we need nurses who actually want to care for patients and not those who just want a secure job. Part of the blame for poor patient care is down to the ward sisters and charge nurses who fail to manage their colleagues and do not pull them up when they make mistakes.

Victoria Aikins, London

CONDITIONS ARE MUCH WORSE FOR NURSES WORKING IN FRANCE

I sympathise with Hannah Duff who has not found a job in the UK after three years of hard slog, but moving abroad to find work may not be the answer (letters November 29). She will receive no preceptorship and will possibly experience racism, loneliness and homesickness.

I left the UK to work in France in 1998 and have just received my *cadre infirmière* as a charge nurse, a similar post to the one I had in the UK. I have been constantly overlooked for career progression because I am English and my qualifications have not been recognised. Nurses in France work in conditions that are horrendous compared with those registered nurses in England complain about.

Cher Richardson, Bendejun, France

ONLINE ORDERS QUICKEST WAY TO RECEIVE QUIT SMOKING BOOK

In the excellent discussion of my book *Enjoy Giving up Smoking* (reviews November 8), it was not made obvious that it is published as an ebook. It is available through Amazon.com, but with a delivery time of between four and six weeks, which may discourage many readers from ordering copies.

The easiest and quickest way to get a copy, and thus to stop smoking, is by visiting the website www.enjoygivingupsfoking.com and obtaining the book online.

Alternatively, you can send your address and a cheque for £29.95, payable to Enjoy Publications International Plc, Tilter Down, Pensax Common, Stockton-on-Teme, Worcs WR6 6XN.

Clive Richards, Enjoy Publications, by email

EVERYONE TRIES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NURSES

I am surprised that nurses in hospitals across the country are being abused and taken advantage of. They are targeted by everyone from the domestics to the consultant. If a patient spills something, the nurses have to clean up. If a domestic makes a mistake, she blames the nurses.

Even the kitchen assistants have no respect for nurses, expecting them to help with menus and the food. Why do nurses have to put up with this? They deserve some respect.

Ajmal Khan, by email

HAS RCN FORGOTTEN ITS OWN INFLATION-BUSTING RISE?

The RCN condemns the Nursing and Midwifery Council for its proposed hefty increase in annual registration fees. Yet the college is increasing its full membership subscription rates from £174 to £180.53 — an inflation-busting 3.75 per cent. Hypocrisy?

Graeme Elrick, Dundee

NURSING STANDARD