

nurses. I consider that this is quite outside the present question.

I really think that such points as your correspondent signing herself "Matron" has raised, asking, "Why call a Matron a Superintendent Nurse?" and "What are Ward Sisters to be called?" are exceedingly trivial, because if at the outset of such a reform we are to begin and criticise the names given provisionally to certain posts, probably because they appear to us as *infra dig.*, I am afraid we shall progress very slowly or possibly not at all.

With regard to Miss Helen Todd's suggestion concerning the organisation of some preliminary teaching and examination before a probationer nurse enters a training-school proper, I think there is plenty at present to deal with, and to add this to the scheme would only tend to make matters more complicated. At the same time, it is certainly worth considering apart from the present scheme, and in the end might lead to beneficial results.

I must now end my present remarks. I purposely say present, for I intend to again write, and that soon, on this important subject if you will kindly give me space in your journal. I hope that if in any part of this letter I may seem to have criticised too severely, those concerned will not take offence, but treat me the same as I have treated them.

If you can print this letter, and the rewritten scheme which I likewise enclose at the same time, I shall be much obliged, as it will be easier for your correspondents to pull to pieces; but if space will not allow of it, then I should prefer the letter to appear first, and subsequently the scheme.

I should like to add that I am indebted to Miss Webb, Matron of the Leicester Borough Isolation Hospital, for having given me some help on some of the points in this letter.

I regret having to address you at this length, but I could not adequately have answered the numerous points raised in the correspondence except by so doing, you having expressed a wish that I should reply to the various criticisms.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

C. DOUGLAS BRYAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Spa House, Leicester.

[We regret that space does not permit us to publish in this issue Mr. Bryan's amended scheme. We hope to do so next week. Meanwhile we feel sure that many nurses will, with ourselves, appreciate the kindly way in which he has discussed the question of organisation, and the time and trouble he has given to the matter. While there may be opinions for and against some of the suggestions made by Mr. Bryan, and with every suggestion we are not ourselves in agreement, yet there can be no two opinions that it is of great value to have this important question fully discussed, and suggestions made to us by a member of the profession of medicine in so helpful a spirit. The more discussion there is of the question of the organisation and registration of nurses, the more light will be thrown on the many details which demand consideration. Mr. Bryan does not mention "Superintendent's" letter in our issue of March 21st, which refers to the organisation of the General Nursing Council, and to Miss Poole's plea for self-government.—Ed.]

## Nursing Echoes.

\* \* \* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



The appointment of Miss Annie J. Hobbs as Secretary to the Royal British Nurses' Association affords satisfactory evidence of the justice of the principle maintained by the Matrons in days gone by, that the work of a Nurses' Association, which has to deal with nursing details, should be performed by a trained nurse.

We have only to point to the condition of the Roll of Members under the *régime* of the late Secretary to demonstrate how impossible it is for the lay mind to grasp professional details. One of the first duties of the new Secretary will, we imagine, be to overhaul this publication and bring it up to date, so that it may be of some use. We may also suggest to Miss Hobbs that she should carefully study the minutes of the Association, and thus acquaint herself with its history, when we feel sure that her professional sympathies will be with those who endeavoured to maintain its professional status instead of making it an agency for philanthropic purposes and society patronage. Miss Hobbs was trained at the West London Hospital, Hammer-smith, and has acted as Assistant Secretary to the Nurses' Co-operation and as Secretary to the Auxiliary Nurses' Association.

A Bill has been presented in the House of Commons by Mr. S. Roberts, and read the first time, "To Amend the Law relating to the Hall-marking of Foreign Plate." Considering the enormous price of old silver, this protection to the public is necessary; but we wonder when a parental Government will class trained nurses as important as silver and hall-mark them by Registration, and thus protect the public from fraudulent imitations? We presume, however, we cannot hope to attain the value of antique metal so long as it sells under the hammer for 250s. an ounce. Imagine human flesh and blood at such a premium!

We are glad to note that, at a meeting of the Executive Council of the Association of Poor Law Unions held recently at the Holborn Restaurant, during the discussion of the Report of the Departmental Committee on Nursing in Workhouses, the term "qualified nurse" as applied to nurses with one year's training in a minor training-school was condemned as unfairly prejudicial to trained nurses in general, as

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)