



Letters to the Editor.

NOTES, QUERIES, &c.

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.

OUR GUINEA PRIZE FOR OCTOBER.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—I beg to acknowledge cheque for £1 1s. received this morning, and was pleased to be so fortunate as to get the prize for last month.

Wishing the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING all success,
I remain,

Yours faithfully,
I. MACNAY.

November 7th, 1903.

PROFESSIONAL DAMAGE.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—I observe in this month's issue of the official organ of the Royal British Nurses' Association the Executive Committee reported to the recent General Council meeting that, "on the recommendation of the special Finance Committee appointed by the last General Council to consider the best method of reducing the expenses incurred in the publication of the Roll of Members [until recently the Register of Trained Nurses.—Ed.], it has been decided to reprint the Roll once every three years, and to issue in the other two addenda containing the names of new members, with any deaths or resignations that may have occurred. It has also been decided that all addresses shall be deleted; that in the case of those nurses who are registered only, simply their name and date of registration will be printed; and that the List of Midwives shall be merely a list of names, since all other information concerning them will be found in the List of Nurse Members."

I gather from this statement that the advantages for which some hundreds of nurses have paid a registration fee of a guinea are to be swept away by the hon. officers, as they have been and are the real governors of the Nurses' Association. What is the use of a Roll of Members without addresses? And is it just in the case of the hundreds of nurses, once members of the R.B.N.A., who have exercised the only method open to them of showing their disapproval of its present management, by ceasing to pay an annual subscription to support men in office whom they distrust, that their *qualifications* as well as their *addresses* should be deleted from the published Roll? What I and others want to know is, is this most cruel attempt at professional damage on the part of the hon. officers and their nominees on the Executive Committee legal? Have they the right to sweep away privileges for which we have paid, without the consent of the members assembled in general meeting? If we are thus deprived of rights for which we have paid, have we no redress? Is it taking money by false pretences to break a contract with us, and, if not,

have we the right to demand back our registration fees of one guinea—fees paid to have our *addresses* and *qualifications* as well as our names printed annually in a public book on sale, which, according to the Royal Charter, was compiled "thus enabling the public to form a more accurate judgment of the professional education and experience of the nurses so registered"?

Verily the spirit of reaction shown in every department of public life in which men have the power of life and death over disfranchised women is bitterly apparent in the history of the R.B.N.A. during the past ten years.

Surely this last deliberate attempt to injure trained nurses will arouse them to the danger of their present helpless position, and cause them to rally round those whose battle-cry is Self-government.

Yours,
F.

[As we are of opinion that the suggestion to suppress the *addresses* and *qualifications* in the published Roll of Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association renders it absolutely worthless to trained nurses and the public, and is a gross violation of the intentions and powers of the Royal Charter, we have dealt at length with this subject in our Editorial article this week.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Private Nurse E.—The charts you require can be procured from Woddenspoon and Co., Gate Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C. The cases are also sold by that firm.

Subscriber.—Any subscriber to the journal, whether a trained nurse or not, is eligible to compete in the Prize Puzzle competition on conforming to the rules published on p. viii.

Country Nurse.—Messrs. Debenham and Freebody, Wigmore Street; Messrs. Garrould, 150, Edgware Road; and Messrs. Thomas Wallis and Co., Ltd., Holborn Circus, all publish catalogues of their specialities for nurses, which are profusely illustrated. On consulting any of these you would, we think, be able to select what you require, and to order it by post.

Vicar's Wife.—We agree with you that your time would be better occupied at a mothers' meeting in giving some popular talks on elementary hygiene, and the care of infants, than in reading some tale of mediocre merit. The appalling ignorance of women who undertake the duties of maternity is one of the saddest and most serious of our national characteristics, and a national reproach which every patriot should endeavour to remove. We shall be glad to recommend books which may be of assistance to you, if you desire.

Country Matron.—Membership of the Matrons' Council is open to Matrons of Hospitals and to Superintendents of Nursing Institutions who are trained nurses. The annual subscription is 5s. a year. The Hon. Secretary (7, Marlborough House, High Street, Marylebone, London, W.) will supply information and forms on application.

Notice.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page VIII.

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