

[Upon referring the points to which our correspondents take exception to an official source, the accuracy of our statements is confirmed. That is to say, the new Matron, on taking up office, found it was the recognised privilege of the whole staff—Sisters, nurses, and probationers—to apply for, and obtain, leave until 11.30 once a week, and until 10 (not 10.30) on another night, the leave beginning when they left the wards at 8 o'clock. From the first the nursing staff were informed that, with the enforcement of new regulations which were in contemplation, this leave would cease to be a weekly right. In regard to the regulation requiring the probationers to serve in private houses during their period of training, we, of course, accept Miss Gordon's assurance that it has not been carried into effect of recent years, and we are glad to know it, but the fact remains that until October of the present year the regulation which we quoted was in force. "When the term of probation [a complete year—Ed.] has expired, her engagement will require her to serve as nurse to the sick at the hospital, or in private houses, as the Lady Superintendent may appoint."

The probationer signed an agreement, in the presence of a witness, expressing her willingness to conform to this and other regulations "in return for the advantages bestowed upon me." Therefore, no probationer who entered the service of the hospital up to October last can object to being sent private nursing at the end of twelve months' training.

We regret that Miss Rae should presume that our information was supplied by one "who knew nothing about the matter." Neither we, nor any journal of repute, publishes gossip of this nature. Our information was obtained from the highest authority.—Ed.]

NO POPERY!

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

DEAR MADAM,—Your announcement made last week that the Committee of the R.B.N.A. are hastily drafting a Registration Bill, after for years supporting the Hon. Officers in their anti-Registration policy, will be read by many with dread. Those of us who left our own Association rather than risk the persecution to which Miss Barlow and Miss Breay were subjected would rather remain unregistered and free all our days than be placed in any way under the autocratic rule of Sir James Crichton Browne and those men and women who were guilty of intimidation of the defenceless nurse-members. When I think of the danger to personal liberty inaugurated by the new by-laws of the R.B.N.A., I can quite appreciate the thought of the Inquisition which echoes to this day in a Protestant heart at the cry of "No Popery!" It is not the Pope we hate, but the tyranny; and those of us who have suffered should not lose a moment in making public our determination never again to be placed at the mercy of the R.B.N.A., as the same men still cling to office, and the women, many of whom are in their employment and who have supported them against the best interests of the nursing profession, are supporting them still. Personally, I would give up nursing rather than have my professional and personal good name at their mercy; and many others think with me.

ONCE BITTEN, TWICE SHY.

[We presume, perhaps with an optimism which is hardly justified by past events, that the members of the

R.B.N.A. will have an opportunity of considering *their own Bill* before their Executive Committee introduce it into the House of Commons. If, like the Nurses' Bill, it wisely asks for an impartial Central Council to carry out Registration of Trained Nurses, and does not attempt to monopolise power for the R.B.N.A., just legislation may be evolved from the two Bills. Time will show.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

H. G. B., Nottingham.—We should advise you to write for the information you require to the Midwives' Institute, 12, Buckingham Street, Strand; also to Fraulein Alice Salomon, Bund Deutscher Frauenvereine, Berlin, W, 10, Friedrich Wilhelmstr. 7. We much appreciate your kind expression of opinion. As you are in sympathy with the international scope of this Journal we hope you will make it known amongst your friends. It is so difficult to interest women beyond their own personal area, so we go on in happy ignorance revolving round the village pump, whilst matters of vital importance to us are arranged for us, with that sublime contempt for our opinion which is the direct result of the undeniable apathy of the majority of our sex.

Miss Ambler-Jones.—Thanks for trouble in forwarding addresses; sorry we did not keep envelope, but Miss C.'s notice came back "not known" through the post, the only one out of 850.

Miss J. P. Jamieson, Ashford.—Thanks for letter received.

Hospital Matron.—You could have no better book for teaching purposes than Miss L. L. Dock's "Materia Medica for Nurses." It is published by Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 24, Bedford Street, Strand, and is quite the best book of the kind we know.

Monthly Nurse.—Have you tried King's Patent Cooked Oatmeal? If not, you would find it very useful, as by its use a cup of gruel can be made with one minute's boiling. This is a great convenience when time is of importance, as it is when you are single-handed and have both mother and child to attend to.

Miss P., Bedford.—It is always well to have a hobby. There is sound sense at the root of the old adage as to "all work and no play." What that hobby shall be must depend upon individual inclinations and, to a large extent, upon the depth of the individual purse. A charming recreation is photography. We commend it to the consideration of nurses.

Notices.

STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

The annual report of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses has been published, and can be obtained on application to the Hon. Secretary, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, price 1½d., post free, or 7d. for six copies. All nurses should obtain a copy of this report, and acquaint themselves with the history and progress of the Registration movement. Application forms for membership of the Society can be obtained from the same address.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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