

will be secured to them more directly than the present constitution of the General Nursing Council suggests.

Yours truly,
MEMBER BART'S LEAGUE.

REGISTRATION NEWS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Every week I read the Registration news with the greatest interest. I am in favour of plenty of direct representation, as against nominated members, on the General Nursing Council. My brother is a medical man, and he says, if the proposal made in the Synopsis of the R.B.N.A. Bill is carried to have ten nominated medical men at the helm, appointed by medical corporations which know nothing of modern nursing needs, and have never had anything to do with nurses and their affairs, that we shall suffer just as the members of the medical profession are suffering, from the domination of men who are not in touch with the enormous electorate throughout the medical profession, who, under existing conditions, can only elect five of their number out of a Council of thirty-one. He thinks these ten nominated medical men would be a fatal mistake, and so do I.

Yours, &c.,
A PRIVATE NURSE.

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

MADAM,—With all due deference to those who have drafted the Bill for State Registration of Nurses, it appears to me that if we desire to get the right sort of doctors to help us we ought to give them more representation than the Bill provides for at present. Three or four medical men amongst nearly thirty nurses is not enough. Either have the Central Council composed entirely of nurses—which, as you say, would be ideal—or have at least six medical representatives on the Board. With "Irish Nurse" I agree that to carry out Registration so much time will be required that we do need plenty of persons on the Board whose time is not entirely taken up with routine duties. I am glad to observe the question of Registration at last seems alive.

Yours sincerely,
C. T. DENT.

PROFESSIONAL ETIQUETTE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—If, as "Mary C. Fair" infers in your last issue, education and Registration are going to make nurses more professionally minded and less prone to gossip in season and out of season (in buses, for instance), by all means let us have Registration at the first possible moment.

Yours,
ONE WHO HATES "SHOP."

WELL DONE, FRANCE!

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

DEAR MADAM,—It was with great interest that I read in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING that France is going to build a college for the training and education of nurses. Surely, Madam, you, who are constantly advocating the well-educated nurse *versus* the half-educated woman, must agree with me that the present mode of training in England is quite unworthy of the leaders of the nursing world. All

those who know me will remember how strongly I feel on the subject and how constantly I have insisted that three years' experience—nay, even ten—do not constitute a "fully-trained nurse." Also, how I have always advocated two classes of nurses, two standards of examinations and qualifications. If in some instances all that is required is a strong, healthy, practical woman, there are others where theory, refinement, organisation, and the gift of ruling others are absolutely and vitally necessary. I do not wish to be personal or unkind, but the two things that struck me most on entering the nursing profession were the slipshod mode of training, and the very small number of women with intelligence above the average who entered the profession. Is it to be wondered at if nurses are expected to do charwomen's work, and find on leaving the hospital that they stand no higher in a professional sense than those women devoid of all education and culture? Does it not seem like coupling the racehorse and carthorse, and expecting them to do the same kind of work? Only the other day I remarked that Easterns were muddlers and had not the gift of organisation and administration. "Just like women," said a gentleman, amidst peals of laughter. "Sadly true," I thought to myself afterwards. What a hopeless muddle they are making of our profession at home; no wonder the doctors in the R.B.N.A. think they must manage our affairs. Who can blame them?

Yours faithfully,
E. R. WORTABET.

Cairo.

[We can blame them, and do. The only way to extract the best from any human being is to give that being, man or woman, *personal responsibility*. If the training-schools have left undone many things they should have done, the fault does not lie with women. Women have been determinedly *excluded* from training-school management in this country, and it is quite marvellous how much has been accomplished, often quite single-handed, by the Matrons of hospitals. We regret that many Matrons holding influential positions have shown a lack of courage in standing aside for fifteen years during a critical struggle which many less influential nurses have engaged in for the better organisation of their profession, but we must not blame them too severely. Hospital Matrons are not free agents in matters professional; and, again, many women hate publicity. "You can't pour out of a pitcher what isn't in it." Recollect also working women are usually poor and always voteless, that they must live, and they cannot afford to quarrel with their bread and butter. We gather from our correspondent that she approves of two classes of nurses and two systems of training, as in times past—what we might term the "lady nurse" and the "domestic nurse," the former, or "racehorse," receiving more theoretical instruction and performing the lighter nursing duties, the latter, the "carthorse," ploughing the heavy domestic furrow; the "racehorse" receiving promotion to well-paid posts of authority, the "carthorse" kept well within the shafts of drudgery. We were trained under this most unjust system, and we believe it is still extant at Middlesex and a few other hospitals. But the "carthorse" wisely kicked over the traces some time ago and departed for pastures new, and both breeds have of late years been superseded by the more useful, common-place animal, the "carriage-horse" nurse, a

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