

schools, and everywhere, from one end of the United States to the other, found their aspirations greeted with the most sympathetic and intelligent response, whereas when certificated nurses in this country ask for bread they are given a stone? Surely there must be something very wrong in your schools somewhere, when you find the Superintendent—the woman who should, before all things, be the chief nurse—ranging herself on the side of the employers, such as hospital chairmen and medical men, against the professional interests of nurses in less exalted positions. There don't seem to be much of your old-time *noblesse oblige* in the situation, anyway.

What are they afraid of—their own pupils? If they are treated fair there is no need to suspect them. But that is just one of the funniest things in creation on this side, that instinctive terror of giving the people power. And such a people!—just the very personification of the grandest virtues; so patient, so uncomplaining, so loyal. Why, my experience of Britishers is that they are grit all through; the more power they have, the better use they seem to make of it. But I don't like this system of little hospital deities, male and female—they are apt to pall. It seems to me your Matrons have got to realise they are nurses first before they aspire to Olympus; it would be much more satisfactory for the rank and file if they were active leaders of nursing thought and politics, anyway, instead of beings apart. We should not have any use for them in America. We like to feel our Superintendent is one of *us*, not a sort of glorified overseer. If she is the best nurse, and the finest organiser, the most cultured woman, and jealous of our professional interests, then she may claim to be a leader, and she is sure of loyal support; but not otherwise.

The situation here is developing itself—employers on one side, employees on the other. What the Registrationists have to do is to close up. The best women are sure sooner or later to come along for progress, and will have the warm sympathy of Colonial and American nurses and the finest people; but the Registrationists must fuse.

Yours,  
AN OLD CAMPAIGNER.

[We would draw our correspondent's attention to the fact that some of our Matrons are well to the front, and leading, as she would express it, "right away," and the Irish Matrons are proving themselves true friends of the rank and file.—ED.]

#### ANOTHER "DISTANCE RIDE."

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

MADAM,—May I draw your notice to the fact that another of the abominable "distance rides" has been projected, and is to be run on April 5th or 6th? This is to be from Milan to Turin, under very cruel conditions, for no horse can compete for a prize which does not, within an hour or so of his reaching Turin, compete in a second race—and that a hurdle-race!

The Berlin Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has already made representations to both Milan and Turin, but it would be as well if English people were also to speak out in time.

I am, Madam, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH COLLINSON.

Humanitarian League.

#### MURDEROUS MILLINERY.

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

DEAR MADAM,—We, the undersigned, desire to record our indignant protest against the prevalent barbarous practice of using the bodies of dead birds, and the plumes torn from the mother heron at nesting-time (aigrettes), for the decoration of women's hats and bonnets, and to deplore the ruthlessness of the wearers of these trophies for the gratification of whose vanity one beautiful bird species after another is being gradually exterminated.

(Signed)

FRANCES EVELYN WARWICK, Warwick Castle.  
CONSTANCE BATTERSEA, 7, Marble Arch, W.  
DOROTHY GREY, Falloden, Northumberland.  
A. H. WARD, 25, Grosvenor Place, S.W.  
LOUISE CREIGHTON, Hampton Court Palace.  
LOUISE JOPPING ROWE, 7, Pembroke Gardens, W.  
ELLEN TERRY, 215, King's Road, Chelsea.  
ROSE PENDER, Salisbury.

#### Comments and Replies.

To several Correspondents.—We regret that great pressure on our space has compelled us to hold over several letters on the Registration question.

Nurse Morris.—Send for patterns of Royal Admiralty serges from Mr. James Beattie, Admiralty Serge Warehouse, Victoria Street, Wolverhampton. We think you will be pleased with them.

Provincial Nurse.—Miss Mollett, Matron of the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital, is organising the Berlin party; she will be glad to receive the subscriptions of those intending to join it by May 1st at latest. The cost of travelling expenses and board if joining it will be £7 15s. 6d., but you should provide yourself with a sum beyond this for incidental expenses.

Enquirer.—The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses now numbers over 1,100 members. It is formed with the one object of furthering the Registration movement, and welcomes to its ranks all trained nurses who desire to support this most necessary reform.

Mrs. Lovell, Bridgwater.—With regard to registration under the Central Midwives' Board, apply for particulars and form of application to the Secretary, Central Midwives' Board, 6, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, W. In regard to the State Registration of Nurses, a Society to obtain an Act of Parliament enforcing such a measure was formed two years ago, and two Bills with this object are now before the House of Commons. If you wish to support the movement you can do so by cutting out and filling in the form on page vii. of this journal. The subscription is one shilling per annum, or five shillings life membership so long as the Society exists for its present purpose.

#### Notices.

##### THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

All those desirous of helping on the important movement of this Society to obtain a Bill providing for the legal registration of trained nurses will find an application form on page vii., or can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. Secretary, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

##### OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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