



## 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.*

#### "BENEATH CONTEMPT."

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

DEAR MADAM,—I heartily agree with all "Rosina A. Graham" says in your last issue, but why expect courage and common sense from members of the R.B.N.A.? They are not only "beneath contempt"—they are ridiculous. I notice in the last issue of the official organ that Dr. Bezley Thorne is reported to have said (*re* Miss Beatty's resolution, that Mr. Fardon and Miss Thorold and other hon. officers should either support the principles for which the Association was founded, and which the nurse-members by an overwhelming majority approved, or they should resign) that "the overwhelming feeling was in favour of State Registration, as it was on his part, but that it had never been made a condition of membership that the members should be bound by certain views." I beg to differ from Dr. Bezley Thorne. The R.B.N.A. was founded to obtain Registration of Trained Nurses, and when Miss Thorold and Mr. Fardon joined the Association they were fully aware of the fact. That they have betrayed their trust to the members, and of late years have used all their influence against the just organisation of our profession, is a fact; but, in my opinion, that does not make their conduct either honourable or desirable. With open enemies like Miss Lückes and Mr. Holland we know where we are, but with hon. officers who cling to office with the intention of preventing the Association carrying out the work for which nurses have contributed thousands of pounds—well, I am afraid no newspaper would let me stigmatise their conduct as it deserves. As for the women who compose the General Council, who one day vote for a Bill for State Registration and the next fawn on the hon. officers who publicly flout them, only the fact that they depend upon the patronage of the said persons for their bread and butter can be their excuse.

It is the opinion of a liberal-minded medical man I know, that the absolute demoralisation of the R.B.N.A. is the result of the slavish dependence of poor working women upon hospital potentates and the medical profession, and that, from a moral as well as an economic point of view the history of this women's (?) Association is the very strongest argument in favour of State protection for trained nurses. It is to be hoped that all the scandals in connection with the intimidation of nurse-members and the illegal and irregular conduct of the business of this Royal Chartered Corporation may be placed before the Select Committee of the House of Commons.

Yours truly,

ONE WHO HAS SUFFERED.

[We are informed that Miss Thorold had resigned the Vice-Chairmanship of the Association before Miss

Beatty proposed her commendable resolution at the Annual Meeting. Why the resignation was not reported to the members does not appear.—Ed.]

## Comments and Replies.

*Sister T., Birmingham.*—Get "Materia Medica for Nurses," by Miss L. L. Dock. It is a most practical text-book for nurses, teaching the physiological and poisonous effects of drugs, their doses, and the best way of giving them. It is published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, 24, Bedford Street, Strand. No nurse should be without it.

*Miss G. S., Bristol.*—We do not advise you to train in the hospital you mention. The regulations are not just, and the whole tone is anti-professional. Try Nottingham, Leicester, Liverpool (Royal), Birmingham (General).

*Miss G. A., London.*—Hope to be able to give you the information you require next week. The members of the Select Committee have now made public their arrangements, and we should advise you to offer your evidence—it appears convincing. The public are deeply concerned in the efficiency of trained nurses, and should demand a guarantee, as they are unable to gauge a nurse's standard for themselves.

*Sister Mary, W.*—We do not think you would have a chance of being appointed Superintendent of Nurses in a good American hospital—so many efficient nurses have been trained during the last decade. The hospitals you mention were given to Englishwomen ten years ago, and their work has been greatly appreciated, but there is a strong feeling that such posts should be the reward of well-trained American nurses. This is only natural; we feel the same way here.

*Home Sister.*—Get curtains, chintzes, &c., at Messrs. Garrould's, Edgware Road. They have excellent goods and most tasteful designs.

## Notices.

Letters held over this week will appear in our next issue.

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

The Annual Report, 1903-04, is now ready. All those interested in the efficient organisation of nursing should procure it from the Hon. Secretary, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W. Six copies, post free, 7d., or one copy 1½d. Gives brief review of the history of State Registration of Nurses.

### INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

Those of our readers who wish for extra copies of the issue containing the report of the International Congress of Women at Berlin, and also of this and next week's issues, containing official reports of the meeting of the International Council of Nurses, should order them at once from the Manager, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 11, Adam Street, Strand, W.C., or through their newagents, as the supply is sometimes less than the demand.

### OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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