

by a minority of one, and 80,000 were to be found in opposition, that would not affect the soundness of a principle. That remains. "Is it beyond the powers of belief" of the Central Hospital Council that certificated nurses, not under the control of their training-schools, and consequently free to express an independent opinion, have a right to one on this question—nay, more, that the opinion of the rank and file of nurses is essential in arriving at a just estimation? If the Council will concede to certificated nurses their right to form an opinion on their own affairs, I beg to suggest that it sends its Manifesto to the self-governing Leagues of Nurses inviting their opinion and criticism. By this method it would arrive at the views of the nurses themselves. I am much obliged to Mr. Holland for his offer of a copy of the evidence which he gave before the Select Committee of the House of Commons, but I already possess a copy which I have carefully read. I must confess to a feeling of sorrow that anyone for whose work I have so sincere an admiration as I have for Mr. Holland's, apart from that in connection with the organisation of nurses, should have assumed what appears to me so inconsequent and regrettable an attitude on this subject. I am sorry that he must appear to the nurses of future generations as one of the obstructors to the better organisation of their calling, and a supporter of those afflicted with the malady which he himself has diagnosed as "Matrons' Chronic." I should have expected to find him in the front ranks of those who are leading the reformers to victory, and I am still of opinion that is his rightful position and one much more in keeping with a character which appears to me in the main to be generous-minded and even chivalrous than is the work of making war on women in which he is engaged in his present rôle of leader of the opposition.—I am, Madam, yours faithfully,

REGISTRATION.

THE NEGATIVE RESPONSIBILITY.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I was very pleased to see that last week you insisted on what someone has aptly described as "the negative responsibility" in relation to the Registration question; it seems to me a side which needs emphasis. It is a nice point for the decision of the casuists which is the more serious—the responsibility of action or the responsibility of inaction. For my own part, at the risk of making mistakes sometimes, I prefer to take the latter weight on my shoulders. There is a saying that the man who never makes a mistake never makes anything. I am inclined to believe it. At any rate, if I try, and fail, I shall have done my best, to better things which cannot be said of the one who maintains his infallibility by doing nothing.—I am, dear Madam, yours faithfully,

AFFIRMATIVE.

[We agree with our correspondent, the negative position is one which has never commended itself to us. It is easy to shut our eyes and then say things are perfection. Such an attitude generally denotes either a lazy person or a time-server. It is easy also to say such and such things are right but the methods taken to obtain them are wrong. One would have more faith in the argument if the objector endeavoured to advance the cause he admits to be right by other methods. As a rule, he does nothing except object.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Miss P. Evans.—Obtain the "Nursing Directory," issued at 11, Adam Street, Strand, price 5s., and study the regulations of the various hospitals. You should eliminate any which do not give a certificate of training after examination and three years' work in the wards. Then write to the Matron of the hospital which most attracts you, and ask when there is likely to be a vacancy, and if she will grant you a personal interview. Be sure to enclose a stamped envelope for a reply.

Certificated Nurse.—Application should be made to the Secretary, Colonial Nursing Association, the Imperial Institute, S.W. We should advise you to obtain maternity nursing experience before applying, as there are very few appointments abroad where this knowledge is not required.

Ward Sister.—You will find the shoes of the London Shoe Company, 123, Queen Victoria Street, E.C., moderate in price and very satisfactory in wear; they always look nice, and are comfortable and quiet. Further, half-worn shoes are mended by this firm so that they take on a new lease of life. The West-end dépôt is at 116, New Bond Street, W.

Recently Certificated.—District nursing, especially in connection with the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, which gives the nurse an assured status, is very congenial work to many nurses. Good health and good walking capacities are essential in a district nurse, as well as sympathy with the difficulties of the poor and tact in dealing with them in their own homes.

Country Matron.—Membership of the Matrons' Council is open to those who are, or have been, Matrons of hospitals, and to Superintendents of Nursing Institutions who are trained nurses. The first object of the Council is "to enable members to take counsel together upon matters affecting their profession;" it is also concerned in bringing about a uniform system of education, examination, certification, and State Registration for trained nurses in the United Kingdom. Information and forms of application can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

Notices.

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, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Six copies, post free, 7d., or one copy 1½d. Gives brief review of the history of State Registration of Nurses.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Editor will at all times be pleased to consider articles of a suitable nature for insertion in this journal—those on practical nursing are specially invited. The Editor will also be pleased to receive paragraphs, such as items of nursing news, results of nurses' examinations, new appointments, reports of hospital functions, also letters on questions of interest to nurses, and newspapers marked with reports of matters of professional interest. Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 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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