

Again, another lady received the following letter, dated June 16th:—

"I am in receipt of your letter and have pleasure in enclosing forms for Existing Nurses. Each form bears the date of issue from this Office, and I am directed to ask you to return to this Office any forms which are *not* issued by you before July 14th, as after that date they will be invalid. Applicants should be requested to return their forms as soon as possible to this Office. It has been decided that forms of application issued up to and including July 14th will be in order, provided they are returned as soon as possible by the applicant."

That some very underhand work is being carried on in the General Nursing Council Office is apparent. I understand that this decision emanated from the Registration Committee, but who gave them power to over-ride the Act? Presumably neither the Council nor the Office Officials have yet found time to read the Act!

Yours faithfully,  
MAUD MACCALLUM

*Hon. Secretary,*

Professional Union of Trained Nurses,  
17, Evelyn House,  
62, New Oxford Street, W.

[We have made enquiries concerning these directions for registration issued officially by the Registrar. We gather that upon her suggestion the Registration Committee decided to extend the time for receiving applications from Existing Nurses after July 14th, 1923, which is the last date according to the Act upon which applications can be received for consideration. The letter to Miss Sheldon proves this. *This totally illegal action upon the part of the Registration Committee has never been reported to the General Nursing Council*—nor has it been condoned as other irregularities have been by the Ministry of Health.—ED.]

#### KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

##### A GOOD IDEA.

*Exasperated* writes: "May a three years' Certificated Sister make a suggestion to the Panjandrum who govern our destinies at Headquarters, 12, York Gate? Nurses' feet are proverbially tired, and to be kept standing in the passage for half-an-hour seems quite unnecessary. If there is no seat for us inside the mansion we pay for, surely this summer weather seats might be placed in the garden—where there is plenty of room for callers, and where we might rest our weary bones." [A very good idea.—ED.]

##### APPLY AND REGISTER LETTER.

*Wants to Register*.—"It is little use your advising nurses to Register before July 14th. I wrote a month ago and can get no reply to my letter beyond the stereotyped, 'your letter is receiving attention' in quite the approved Governmental method. I call. I am seen by a person who cannot give me a straight answer to the simple question, 'Am I or am I not eligible under the

new Rule 9 (1) (g)? A friend with less training than I has been told she is eligible, and has handed in her form of application in time." [We advise our correspondent to obtain an Application Form, fill it in, address it to the Registrar, *register the letter (keep the receipt) and post at once*; the rest must be left to fate.—ED.]

*Sister in a London Hospital*.—"I am ashamed to think that Dr. Chapple should represent the beautiful county of Dumfries, where sensible, good people live. I shall certainly tell his supporters about him when I go home."

*An Australian Nurse, Melbourne*.—"Mr. Baird has given an assurance he will bring in the Nurses' Registration Bill this Session. I wrote and congratulated him and made a copy of a paragraph from the B.J.N. showing the trouble our nurses have when visiting countries where Acts are in force. No provision will be made in the Bill for regulating the hours, pay or conditions of employment of nurses and nursing trainees in public hospitals. The Nurses' Guild has been registered under the Federal Arbitration Act, Ministers state, and it is possible for Australian nurses to lodge a plaint and obtain an award. When the measure comes before the Legislative Assembly efforts will be made by Liberal and Labour members to have clauses added, providing for better conditions of employment for nurses and trainee nurses in public hospitals. . . . Some of the very worst enemies we have are some members of the B.M.A. here. A great shortage of probationer nurses is felt in Infectious Diseases Hospitals."

##### SHORTAGE OF PRIVATE NURSES.

*Matron, Private Nurses' Co-operation*.—"I wonder if my experience is the same as others? For the first time in years I am unable to procure the *right type* of Nurse for private nursing. Reasons given: (1) Doctors employ too many untrained nurses, and registered nurses don't wish to be associated with them; (2) hospitals compel a fourth year's work from probationers to do private nursing, consequent shortage of work. This will be very serious for the public if it continues."

[It is already a serious matter for the public, as private nursing requires the very best type of nurse—her work is so responsible and the supply is short. Good nurses can always be supplied with patients, they are so highly valued by the public, and their branch of service is not appreciated in the profession as it ought to be. We had hoped much from the "protected" uniform and badge, but, alas! now that the untrained *bona fides* may masquerade in it, untold discredit will result to "our cloth."—ED.]

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

*July 14th*.—Describe (a) the symptoms, (b) the nursing management, of a case of concussion.

*July 21st*.—What are the following and what are their effects: (1) Anæsthetic; (2) Hypnotics; (3) Antipyretics; (4) Mydriatics; (5) Narcotics? Give an example of each.

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