

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

*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.*

## TRADITIONS OF NOBLE WORKERS TO BE UPHELD.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

Dear Madam,—May I be allowed, through the medium of your paper, to thank the members of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland for the very great honour they have conferred on me in electing me their President.

As Miss Breay so rightly said at the meeting held on June 28, I have a great deal to live up to in following two such noble workers for our profession as the late Miss Isla Stewart and Miss Heather Bigg. I can only assure my fellow members that my one aim whilst holding office will be to strive for the uplifting and furthering of those traditions which have always been held by the members of the Matrons' Council since its inauguration.

I much regret that absence on leave prevented me from attending the meeting, and thanking my friends in person.

Yours very truly,

KATHLEEN A. SMITH.

London Temperance Hospital.

## THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, July 9th, 1923.  
20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.1.

DEAR MADAM,—I shall be much obliged if you will kindly insert the enclosed copy of a letter to Dr. Chapple in the next issue of your Journal.

I remain, Yours faithfully,

M. S. RUNDLE, Secretary.

[COPY.]

July 3rd, 1923.

DEAR DR. CHAPPLE,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 27th ultimo. You have again evaded the point at issue between us. In your speech, made in the House of Commons, introducing the Petition to the King, you distinctly led the House to understand that your proposals were approved by the College of Nursing, whereas you knew perfectly well that the College was entirely opposed to them. The position of the College was made quite clear to you by the Deputation which attended the House of Commons on the 8th May last. It is useless to say, as you do in your letter, that the Deputation of Registered Nurses belonging to the College, weighed as nothing with you—because they were not there in their individual capacity but as representing the considered opinion of the College of Nursing.

So far as I am concerned the correspondence is now ended.

(Signed) A. STANLEY.

Dr. W. Chapple, M.P.

[It is useless for Sir Arthur Stanley to deny that Dr. Chapple's most disastrous proposals were approved by the College Council in December last, since as recently as March 16th, 1923, they were practically embodied in the official letter from the College sent to the General Nursing Council, and read without one word of dissent by any of its members who packed the Council at that date. This official letter urged that "the door of admission to the first State Register should not be closed to any 'Existing Nurses' who can show that they were in *bona fide* practice as nurses of the sick for three years before November, 1919, and that they possess adequate knowledge and experience of the nursing of the sick, however such knowledge and experience may have been acquired."

As we emphasised on numerous occasions, this meant, and was intended to make possible, the State registration of V.A.D.s, cottage nurse-midwives, and totally untrained persons, and to place them in competition with thoroughly trained, conscientious nurses by securing for them every privilege secured to professional nurses in the Act—legal status, title, protected uniform, and Badge—for which the majority had refused to qualify.

When, therefore, the treacherous College Council withdrew from this position a few weeks ago, the damage was done. The social influence of the College Chairman, together with the power of the Parliamentary Medical Committee in the House of Commons, have in our opinion, not only broken faith most cruelly with Registered Nurses, but have betrayed the safety of the sick.

We have received too late for insertion this week Dr. Chapple's reply to Sir Arthur Stanley. It will appear, with comments, in our next issue.—ED.]

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

THE IRONY OF IT ALL.

*Scottish Nurse writes* :—"If Government ordains that all Existing Nurses, including thousands of certificated trained women, are to be placed in the same grade on the General Part of the Register as untrained women who have chosen to nurse the sick, it means that those of us who have worked during the whole of our training career for the State Registration of Nurses (for the protection of the sick) will be the only members of the profession without any status. The irony of it all!

"Why is Dr. Chapple not a little more active and explicit regarding the Veterinary Surgeons' Bill, and the attitude of medical M.P.s towards it? The recent amendment to that Bill was strongly supported by Sir Watson Cheyne, because he considered the horses should have *skilled* attention. Presumably the poor people in the Highlands and elsewhere are of less importance in the eyes of some of our M.P. doctors than the horses."

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

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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