

to semi-educated persons, *whose poverty, if not their will, would press them to perform illegal operations?*"*

Do trained Midwives intend to sit down under these charges? Of course they are difficult to deal with. If Dr. Rentoul would be good enough to make them about a particular individual, myself for instance, the course would be plain. As it is, they are some of "those vague charges which any uneducated person can make without the slightest proof."

Do the Council of the London Obstetrical Society also intend to keep silence when these charges are made about women holding their certificates? and are the eminent medical men who have seats upon it prepared to be found guilty of infamous conduct by the General Medical Council, and to have their names erased from the Medical Register, because by granting to women, who have satisfied them that they know their work, a certificate which is forfeited if it is misused, they help to protect them from such charges as those brought against us by Dr. Rentoul.

With a strange inconsistency, Dr. Rentoul applauds the Holt-Ockley system, and considers that "to obtain a *good Nurse for 9s. for two weeks** (or double if no practitioner is engaged) is only fair exchange." Opinions vary as to what constitutes a good nurse, but if a "good medical man" were invited to work hard for two weeks for even double this amount, I fancy there would be an outcry.

Is it possible that the economic question has anything to do with the determined effort to disparage trained Midwives? Such a paper as that of Dr. Rentoul's can only have one effect, namely, to hasten premature legislation of Midwives as such. If Midwives demand this, under such circumstances, who can blame them! Certainly not

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET BREAY, M.R.B.N.A., L.O.S.

LETTERS ADDRESSED TO MISS WINGFIELD.

THE REGISTRATION OF ASYLUM ATTENDANTS AS NURSES.

DEAR MISS WINGFIELD,—I very much regret that Hospital duties prevent my being present at the meeting on January 7th, as I am entirely in sympathy with its objects.

I would gladly do anything in my power to hinder a step which must, I believe, prove most injurious to the Royal British Nurses' Association.

I consider that the Executive Committee, in admitting Mental Attendants on the Register of Trained Nurses, would break through one of the fundamental principles of the Association, which professes only to register *fully* qualified Nurses.

I contend that Mental Attendants, however skilful in their own branch of Nursing, are not entitled to be described as "fully qualified Nurses." No examination, no matter how searching, can prove them such. If it were so, Examining Boards might take the place of our Training Schools, and the Probationer of the future might qualify without the arduous work in the wards which has hitherto been considered a necessary part of her training. But experience would be replaced by smartness, and alas for the patients who had

* The italics are mine.

the misfortune to be under the care of this Nurse, trained only in the theoretical part of the work!

An influx of such partially trained Nurses would tend to lower the status of the present members, and for Private Nurses will almost certainly lessen the demand for their services and lower their fees.

We have all met with Midwives who are ready, when not occupied in their own branch of the work, to take up general Nursing at lower fees than the regular Nurse would charge, and it is more than probable that the same would occur in the case of Mental Attendants who were out of employment, if once they could claim to be Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

I sincerely hope that the meeting of January 7th will be successful in averting such a retrograde step as that proposed by the Honorary Officers. The best thanks of all real friends of the Association will be due to the organiser of it.

Believe me, yours very truly,
HENRIETTA C. POOLE,
Member of Council R.B.N.A.,
Matron East Lancashire Infirmary.

Blackburn.

DEAR MADAM,—I should be very glad to attend the meeting to be held on January 7th to protest against the attempt to place untrained Asylum Attendants on the Register of Trained Nurses, but shall be in the North.

I know quite well the class from which many of the Asylum Nurses are drawn. Whilst I was Matron at Nottingham General Hospital a great number of my wardmaids went as Nurses to various Asylums, and to have been a wardmaid at the General Hospital was considered quite sufficient training for the post.

I have not time to say more, but I feel very strongly on the subject. Yours truly,
S. R. ALICE RIMINGTON, M.R.B.N.A.
Bancroft's School, Woodford Green, Essex.

DEAR MADAM,—I most gladly add my name to the enclosed resolution, and quite agree with you that the names of Asylum Attendants ought not to be put on the Register of Trained Nurses, unless they have received training in a general Hospital.

If Asylum Attendants wish for Registration why not get up a Register of their own?

What would the members of the medical profession say if we Hospital Nurses were to ask to have our names placed on their Register? They would very soon rise up in arms against us, and quite right, too. We have no right to be placed on their Register, neither have Asylum Attendants any right to have their names placed on the Register of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

I hope your suggestion of a meeting in the first week in January will be carried out. I should very much like to attend all the meetings connected with the Association, but find myself too far away from London. Wishing you every success in your protest,

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
ALICE S. WOODHOUSE,
Matron, M.R.B.N.A.,
Member of the General Council.
Children's Hospital, Bradford.

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