

prevented from gaining a footing in Bradford or that Dr. Metcalfe and Mr. Horrocks will see its error, and frankly let it drop.

Yours truly,
"A BRADFORD NURSE."

A SUBSIDISED MINORITY.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I think members of the Royal British Nurses Association owe you a debt of gratitude for pointing out the miserable position of those private nurse members in London who subscribe to the Society, and thus support it, but who are excluded from participating in any practical benefits. This is my case: I joined the R.B.N.A., hoping to get work, and then was told by the Secretary of the Chartered "that they were not taking on any more members at present." On applying a second time I was told on a post-card, *the same day*, from the Secretary, that there was no vacancy, so my application could not have come before any Committee. I then resigned my membership of the R.B.N.A., as the whole thing appeared to me so wrong and unjust that certificated members of the Royal British Nurses' Association should be summarily disqualified for private work by an untrained official, and I do think it most unfair for Miss Leigh to say in the paper you allude to, as an inducement to nurses to join the R.B.N.A., that "this excellent opening to a lucrative career which offers to members of the Association, is due to the fact that the Royal British Nurses' Association has bound together in a league of mutual friendship the promoters of this successful co-operation," and, again, "What I want to emphasise is that, though financially independent, the Chartered Nurses Co-operation is one essential feature, and the direct outcome of our Association; and the fact that, through membership, nurses may be introduced to the best work attainable in their profession is not to be lost sight of when the advantages of joining are called in question."

No doubt this statement may encourage poor nurses wanting work to join, and after paying, as I did, £1 1s. registration fee, 5s. membership subscription, and numerous other small sums for badge, postage, etc., they may find themselves disqualified by an unprofessional person, practically acting as superintendent of the "Chartered" office. It is not fair to entice nurses to join the R.B.N.A. with promise of the "best work attainable," and then inform them on a post-card that there is no work for them.

And then the rule at the Registered Society that no candidate who has been refused at the other two "co-ops" is eligible for membership, has prevented my getting in to any 7½ per cent. co-operation. The whole thing seems most unjust.

Yours,
UNATTACHED PRIVATE NURSE.

[We sympathise greatly with this trained nurse's views, but we cannot agree that there is any injustice in the rule now in force at the Registered Nurses' Society, that candidates who have applied and have been refused at other co-operations of nurses should be considered ineligible for membership of the Registered Nurses' Society. It must be borne in mind that membership of this society demands a higher

standard of training and guarantee of efficiency than the other two societies at present exact, one of which has still the two years' term of hospital training as a standard, and which also admits "specialists" for mental and maternity work, and the second of which only exacts a *three years' term of residence in hospitals*, not necessarily in a well-organized training school in a general hospital, and a certificate of efficiency. This standard of a three years' complete training in a large general hospital, and a certificate of efficiency after examination, is the standard in force in the Registered Nurses Society, and the Committee, partly formed of the nurse members themselves, are naturally anxious to uphold the high qualifications of those nurses they admit to membership. The Registered Nurses Society, moreover, is determined to protect the interests of the public in demanding the most thorough standard possible at present in the education of a nurse.—Ed.]

THE INCORPORATION OF TRAINED MASSEUSES.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I was very pleased to see, in your last issue, that trained masseuses are applying for incorporation. It is time that something was done by workers of this class to protect themselves, as evils have long flourished which seriously injure them, with which public authorities seem unwilling or unable to cope. This effort on the part of the masseuses, however, brings home to trained nurses that their own registration is still unaccomplished, and that they have no legal status. It behoves us to be up and doing if we do not wish every other class of professional women workers to be organised and recognised before ourselves. It is difficult to understand, if the claims of midwives, and of masseuses to official recognition, are admitted, how those of trained nurses can be denied, for their education and course of training is much more exhaustive and prolonged than either of the above classes of workers. By the way, has anyone ever as yet advanced any valid argument against the registration of graduate nurses? I have never heard any except "we don't want it" and "we won't have it," but surely reasonable legislators want something more than this to impress them with the undesirability of a scheme in favour of which so many weighty reasons have been urged. If nurses once seriously began to demand State recognition, and pointed out to the public the need, as well as the justice for such a measure, no obstruction on the part of small-minded or interested opposers could not long delay it. Let us hope that the beginning of a new century may see small and petty jealousies, unworthy of our noble profession, set aside, and British nurses resolutely uniting for the common good.

I am, Dear Madam,
Yours obediently,
A STATE REGISTRATIONIST.

[We presume that some of the persons who oppose State Registration of Trained Nurses do so from conscientious conviction, but we know that the "power of the purse" is miraculously convincing, and we have against us the very vicious community of quacks and nurse farmers and sweaters, who will fight hard before relaxing their clutch on their prey.—Ed.]

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)