

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY.

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

DEAR MADAM,—However much Registration may affect hospitals, it is, of course, trained nurses whose interests are most affected. To listen to some opinions on the question one would imagine that certificated nurses had no rights whatever in professional matters. This is absurd. It is the private nurses who have no protection at all, and it is private nurses who should do all in their power to urge on this reform. Private nurses see the suffering resulting from incompetent, half-trained women; they have to work with the inefficient and unskilled on terms of equality; they are classed with the immoral woman carrying on her loathsome "profession" under the fraudulent use of our cap and apron. Private nurses are in great numbers independent of hospitals and training schools, and have little to thank them for, as their committees have entirely stood aside, whilst their conditions of labour have become worse and worse. Every private nurse holding a certificate should join the Society for State Registration and use her personal influence to have just legislation effected. All interests are involved and are mutual—hospitals, nurses, and the public—and it is high time the hospital committees, who are after all employers of nursing labour, should take active steps to protect their certificated nurses from unjust conditions of labour, or leave them alone to accomplish their own salvation. Anyway, we nurses cannot get away from our own individual responsibility; we have got to do our share.

Yours, &c.,

A. C.

Comments and Replies.

To Members of the Society for State Registration.—The Hon. Secretary in reply to several letters begs to suggest that the annual fee—now *one shilling*—should be paid by June 25th in each year, so that it is now due from those members who joined the Society in 1902. If any member who paid the 2s. 6d. subscription prefers to become a life member she can do so by paying a second 2s. 6d., but 1s. a year is more helpful if it is regularly paid.

Country Matron.—We quite agree with your point of view. The present age is one of co-operation and combination, and, unless nurses realise this principle, they will never be able to make their voices heard above the noise of the world at the present day. Those who do not wish to see the nursing profession strong and powerful well know this, and their object is to make nurses mistrust one another, to keep aloof from one another, and so to prevent us from becoming a forceful and self-respecting body. Those, on the other hand, who have the best interests of the nursing profession at heart long for the day when "all narrow jealousies" shall be silent, and British nurses rise at last to the full appreciation of the dignity and responsibilities of their calling.

Notices.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page VIII.

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It is most pleasant to take, requires no preparation, will keep indefinitely, whilst, on the score of economy, perhaps it may claim to be the cheapest food on the market.

Amongst the world's foremost athletes there has been of late years a strong tendency to a vegetarian diet. To people thus inclined Grape-Nuts will prove a boon.

Of all the scores of pupils and friends to whom I have recommended your food, not one has failed to praise it in the highest terms.

I must say that, contrary to usual custom, you are far too modest in the claims you put forward as to the value of your food, and this fact has influenced me in writing you this lengthy encomium in grateful acknowledgment of the benefit I have derived from a regular course of Grape-Nuts.

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Grape-Nuts are sold by dealers at 7d. per packet.

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