

Why not find out which?

Statements such as hers cannot be allowed to pass simply because she "chooses to make" them. She should not choose, or, if she does, she should choose also to have them put to the test.

I know nothing of the law of libel, but I should think that to write under her own name what she has written anonymously would be actionable.

I do not think "Independence" can recognise my style, as it has never been seen before in this journal, nor, on this subject, elsewhere; nor anywhere on any subject for some years.

As to the hare, I used a well-known metaphor, meaning nothing personal as the context showed. But still, as it happens, hares *do* skulk and double. Let us hope your correspondent will do neither.

Yours truly,

M. D. BRINTON.

Scotland, August 24th, 1903.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am sorry "Independence" did not accept Miss Brinton's challenge, for she certainly had a perfect right as a policy-holder to have a statement—viz., "That a policy-holder on retiring from the Fund received less than she paid in"—thoroughly investigated; either it is false or true, and, as it affects a large body of nurses, should be settled. Only a short time ago I heard the same story repeated by a nurse, who had been "told so" by an ex-policy-holder; but, in this instance, an official of the R.N.P.F. was present and promptly contradicted her, and was able to prove himself right by facts and figures. I agree with Miss Brinton that it is time these loose assertions should cease.

First, because it tends to hinder young nurses availing themselves of what might prove to be a real boon. Secondly, it is unfair to place stumbling-blocks in the way of those committees who are trying to help their nurses to help themselves. Thirdly, it affects the honour of the founder and officials of the Fund; even if we do not like people, let us hit fair.

I know the officials of the Royal National Pension Fund can fight their own battles when they take the trouble, but this statement has been publicly made and ought to be publicly contradicted, so perhaps Miss Brinton will be kind enough (as she has offered to take upon herself the correspondence) to put the whole matter before Sir Henry Burdett (or some other responsible person) and ask him to give us his view on the subject; and, as "Independence" prefers to remain anonymous, I, for one, shall have every confidence in what he says, and, at the same time, think it a pity that a nurse should accuse others of an act of injustice (to put it mildly) and not give the accused a fair chance of defending themselves.—I am, dear Madam, Truly yours, POLICY HOLDER.

NURSING HOMES AND PRIVATE NURSING INSTITUTIONS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Your correspondent drew attention to a condition of things well known in the nursing world when she described the management prevailing in many nursing homes and private nursing institutions. Which of us does not know of similar instances of nursing homes "run" by untrained persons, of homes where patients are charged fees which should

provide them with the attendance of fully-trained nurses, but where the large part of the nursing staff are inexperienced girls, engaged at miserable salaries, or no salaries at all, on the ground that they are receiving training? Training, forsooth! it is a blind leading of the blind, and Heaven help the sick man or woman who enters such a home.

Then the private nursing institutions which farm out so-called nurses, paying these ignorant women as low a salary as they can be induced to accept, and sending them out to the public at full fees! When I think of the suffering caused to the sick by such practices my blood boils. Truly the profit so made represents often the price of blood, and the misery and poverty of widows and orphans. It is time that the public roused themselves in self-defence and insisted on having a guarantee that the nurses supplied to them are competent. Nothing short of State Registration that I can see will ever afford this; therefore I am heart and soul

A STATE REGISTRATIONIST.

Comments and Replies.

To our Correspondents.—We regret that other letters are unavoidably held over until next week.

Monthly Nurse.—King's Patent Cooked Oatmeal, as its name implies, is thoroughly cooked by a new patent process, and, consequently, gruel can be quickly prepared if this is used. It can generally be obtained without difficulty locally, but, in the event of its not being procurable, the Albion Food Mills, Sycamore Street, E.C., will supply it.

Matron.—We do not think that probationers are influenced chiefly by the amount of salary offered, but rather by the reputation of the training-school for nurses. As the educational side of nurse-training schools becomes emphasised, probationers realise that it is contrary to all educational precedents to pay pupils highly for receiving a valuable education. The time when they should be well paid is when they put the skilled knowledge they have acquired on the market.

Anxious Mother.—It is a good practice to weigh an infant every week and to keep a chart or record from week to week, as it is one test—and a very good one too—of progress.

Maternity Nurse.—The next examinations of the British Gynaecological Society will take place in September. Information concerning regulations can be obtained from Dr. Aarons, 14, Stratford Place, London, W.

Notices.

STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

The annual report of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses has been published, and can be obtained on application to the Hon. Secretary, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, price 1½d., post free, or 7d. for six copies. All nurses should obtain a copy of this report, and acquaint themselves with the history and progress of the Registration movement. Application forms for membership of the Society can be obtained from the same address.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)