

class governed, i.e., the nurses themselves, on the Governing Body. Self-government is an essential principle in the good management of any profession. (2) That, as the medical profession is so intimately connected with that of nursing, a proportion of seats should be allotted to members of the above profession. Whether the medical representatives should be appointed by medical bodies, or should be elected by the registered nurses themselves, is a point upon which I should like further light. (3) It is, I think, important that while the heads of nurse-training schools should without doubt have due representation on the Council, yet that it is equally important that provision should be made for the appointment of a proportion of registered nurses, not holding official positions, who may or may not have held such positions in the past, while undoubtedly the interests of the rank and file of nurses should be represented. While a Matron is primarily a nurse, her point of view seems almost inevitably tinged with the official aspect. Take, for instance, this very question of Registration. While the large majority of well-trained nurses are in favour of it, we feel, and I think we have a right to feel, aggrieved that so many Matrons have stood aside, and shrunk back from public advocacy of this reform. They say they must "consider their committees." No doubt; but then, if they are not free agents they are not very safe representatives on a Council charged with safeguarding our interests. While, therefore, from the educational standpoint their opinion will be of much value, I think we must protect our personal interests by providing for our representation by independent graduate nurses.

I am aware that some nurses think that a Nursing Council should be composed entirely of nurses, and they point to the Royal British Nurses' Association as evidence of the subjugation of nursing interests when the medical element is introduced. I appreciate the fear, and regret its cause. Still, as a matter of principle, I think that medical practitioners should have some voice in the organisation of nursing education. This being so, our care must be to give them the representation which is their due, but to see at the same time that the representatives appointed are practitioners of wide and liberal views. The R.B.N.A., with all its disappointments, will have served a useful end if it has taught us this lesson.

I am, yours faithfully,
GRADUATE NURSE.

RESIDENTIAL CLUBS FOR NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—As a "colonial," I was interested in your remarks in last week's issue about the proposal to start a Nurses' Residential Club in Melbourne. It is difficult for English nurses to realise how different things are out there—how few are the nurses in comparison to London—and I quite realise the fear of the Melbourne private nurses that if a Residential Club were started it would of necessity touch their liberty of residence, because, if taken up by the officials of the V.T.N.A., it would be inevitable that the influence of the Association would wipe out other Nurses' Homes, which would not be fair, or leave freedom of action to nurses when off duty. The nurses in Melbourne would grasp this at once, and that they did so, and opposed the Association taking action, is the way of colonial women—they are much more democratic and

fearless than nurses in this country. Indeed, the sad history of the R.B.N.A. would never have been written if it had been really *British* instead of *English*. Believe me, it is not the same thing at all. I can endorse all you say of St. Andrew's House—the arrangement is happy all round, as disagreeable people need not be admitted a second time; whereas if the nurses financed the establishment as proprietors they, of course, could make themselves as unpleasant to others as they chose. Moreover, nurses have not the money to be made responsible for such a large outlay, and until they learn something of business, and the cost of living, they had better avail themselves of the experience of others.

Yours truly,
A COLONIAL SISTER.

NOTICE.

We have received another long letter from Miss Brinton containing many points of interest in reference to our editorial remarks on the Pension Fund discussion. We intend, therefore, to ring up the curtain just once more at her request next week, as space does not permit us to insert her communication in this issue.

Comments and Replies.

Correspondent.—The papers set at the last examination conducted by the British Gynaecological Society appeared in the issue of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of June 27th last. It can be obtained from the offices of the JOURNAL, 11, Adam Street, Strand, W.C.

Miss Weldon.—You should not accept any appointment abroad without careful inquiry into the conditions of service, or without a written and stamped agreement. You cannot be too careful in a matter of this kind.

A New Subscriber.—You would find any of the following books useful:—"Practical Nursing," by Miss Isla Stewart and Dr. Herbert Cuff, published by William Blackwood and Sons, 45, George Street, Edinburgh, price 3s. 6d.; "Nursing: Its Principles and Practice," by Isabel Adams Hampton (Mrs. Hampton Robb), published by W. B. Saunders, 925, Walnut Street, Philadelphia, price 7s. 6d. net; and "A Manual of Nursing: Medical and Surgical," by Dr. Laurence Humphry, published by Messrs. Charles Griffin and Co., Ltd., Exeter Street, Strand, price 3s. 6d.

Probationer.—Many nurses suffer from tender feet. It is worth while to take considerable trouble to get really well-fitting shoes, and also to change them fairly often. The shoes supplied by the London Shoe Company are very comfortable, and they also wear extremely well. A great advantage also is that the Company repair shoes most excellently. Their depôts are at 116, New Bond Street, W.; 21, Sloane Street, S.W.; and 123, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

Notices.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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