

“DIFFICULTIES ARE NOT REASONS.”

To the Editor of the “British Journal of Nursing.”

DEAR MADAM,—I have read with great interest the correspondence in the *B. M. J.* on Nursing Organisation, and am only sorry that further time and space cannot be given up to it, as it is one of immense importance to the medical profession if they only knew it. Enough, however, appeared to prove that there are absolutely no valid reasons against legal status being granted to efficiently-trained nurses, and that it is a poor-spirited class of woman that will be influenced by difficulties, especially as most of the difficulties arise from ignorance or self-interest upon the part of those who wish to keep nurses a chaotic mass of helpless women.

The only gentleman who signed a letter, in the recent controversy, against Registration is a large employer of nursing labour as a hospital chairman, and, with the best intentions in the world, it is impossible that he can judge the question from the workers' point of view. The interests of employer and employed are by no means synonymous, and it is an undeniable fact that the hospital over which he presides makes more profit out of the private nurses' labour than any other hospital in England.—Yours truly,

ONE WHO KNOWS.

THE WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the “British Journal of Nursing.”

DEAR MADAM,—I have pleasure in informing you that Mrs. Stanbury will, up to December 14th, be conducting propaganda work, chiefly in and near London, on behalf of this Society.

Until November 2nd, the date fixed for the election of London Borough Councils, she will principally be engaged in stimulating and organising the efforts of local electors and others who desire to obtain from candidates for the Borough Councils answers to the following question:—

Will you, if elected, vote in favour of a motion in the — Borough Council:—*That the Council do petition Parliament to remove the disabilities imposed upon women by the London Government Act, 1899, and to restore to the electors the right (taken from them by that Act) of choosing as their representatives women as well as men?*

(The advocacy of members of the London Borough Councils has great weight with Parliament.)

After November 1st, Mrs. Stanbury's work will have a wider scope, viz., that of organising support for the Bill to be re-introduced next Session for the purpose of enabling women to be elected as County Councillors, Borough Councillors, and London Borough Councillors.

Mrs. Stanbury will, so far as the other claims of her work permit, be ready to meet committees and to address meetings in and near London. It is hoped that any Association or group of friends desiring an address from Mrs. Stanbury will be prepared to pay travelling expenses, and also to assist the good cause either by paying a fee to the Society or by having a collection taken during the meeting.

We cannot but think that you will agree with us that there should be no delay in pressing for an enabling Bill.—I am, dear Madam, Yours faithfully,

ANNIE LEIGH BROWNE,

Hon. Sec.

Comments and Replies.

*Monthly Nurse.*—Messrs. Southall Bros. and Barclay, Ltd., Birmingham, would no doubt supply you with lists of the contents of their accouchement sets on application. They are of a well-known standard of excellence, and are arranged in three sizes, obtainable at 10s. 6d., £1 1s., and £2 2s. The £1 1s. size is a very popular and satisfactory one.

*Ward Sister.*—There is at present no special course of training for Matrons in this country. The United States and Germany have the advantage over us. The former has a well-arranged course at Teachers' College, Columbia University, and the latter at the Mother House of the German Red Cross Society in connection with the Bavarian Women's Association at Munich. Matrons' posts in this country are increasingly often filled now from the ranks of those candidates who have held the post of Assistant Matron. This is good as far as it goes, but the experience thus gained can never be a satisfactory substitute for that obtained in a systematic course, and it is much to be desired, for the prestige of hospital Matrons in this country, that one should be established.

*Provincial Nurse.*—Join the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses; you may then legitimately feel that you have attained your desire of “having a hand in obtaining this urgently-needed reform.” It must never be forgotten that even the unanimous desire of trained nurses will not suffice to obtain Registration. Legislation is the result of popular opinion, and private nurses have it largely in their power to influence public opinion. If once the public realised even a proportion of the dangers to which they are liable at the hands of untrained and insufficiently-trained nurses they would clamour for the registration of the efficiently trained.

*Isolated Matron.*—Application forms for membership of the Matrons' Council can be obtained on application to the Hon. Secretary, 7, Marlborough House, High Street, Marylebone, London, W. Membership is open to women who are, or have been, Matrons of hospitals, and to superintendents of nursing institutions who are trained nurses.

*To our Correspondents.*—We are always glad to receive the many newspapers containing information of nursing interest which find their way into our letter-box, but we should be greatly obliged if our correspondents would always mark the paragraph to which they wish to draw our attention. This would save much valuable time.

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.

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