

when Sir Wm. Savory was our able Chairman, and he was supported by many of his colleagues, and the most thoughtful Matrons and Sisters of the best training-schools in Great Britain.

Yours faithfully,

JULIA HURLSTON.

[By drafting a Bill for State Registration of Nurses at the eleventh hour, and when the work has been done by others, the R.B.N.A. Executive at least repudiates the irresponsible frivolity with which the hon. officers of the Association have treated the Registration question for the past seven years.

It is to be hoped that the nurse-members who have supported them against our professional interests—if they are consulted in the matter—will realise that neither ignorance nor apathy will be any excuse in the future for professional disloyalty.—ED.]

THE NURSING REGULATIONS AT CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL.

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

MADAM,—As one who worked in Charing Cross Hospital for nine years (from 1894 till the present year) I feel justified in writing to ask you to correct certain statements which appeared in your issue of December 5th with regard to the nursing staff arrangements of that institution.

Firstly, the term of training has been three years, and the certificate given was for that time.

Secondly, neither Sisters nor Nurses were allowed leave after 8 p.m. without the express permission of the Lady Superintendent. This rule was always rigidly enforced.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

ADA M. SMITH, Matron.

General Hospital,
Tunbridge Wells.

[We have referred to this question in another column. In our issue of the 5th inst we made no reference to the certificate given at Charing Cross Hospital, but quoted the terms of agreement which were in force, and which a probationer signed until June, 1903, providing for one year's training in the wards, and binding her "to continue in the service for at least two years longer than the year of probation," and, further, "when the term of probation (that is, one year) has expired her engagement will require her to serve as nurse to the sick in the hospital, or in private houses, as the Lady Superintendent may appoint." We presume Miss Ada M. Smith signed this contract, though for years it has not been acted upon.—ED.]

DEAR MADAM,—Will you kindly permit me through the columns of your paper to corroborate Miss Lucy Rae's remarks on the discipline of Charing Cross Hospital.

For eight and a-half years I worked in the institution as probationer, nurse, and sister, and I assert that the nurses were not privileged to ask and obtain late leave once a week as a right.

When extension was desired, we all understood that the prerogative of granting or refusing our request rested absolutely on the discretion of the Lady Superintendent.

During my entire term of service discipline was maintained at a very high standard.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

E. ALEXANDER.

Blackheath and Charlton Hospital, S.E.

[We are informed that the members of the nursing staff were not officially reported in and out at Charing Cross as at the majority of hospitals, until recently, when a book was instituted for this purpose. Otherwise this question of the frequency of late leave could have been verified. We can but hope that the Committee of the hospital will realise the necessity of carefully revising the regulations for the nursing staff from time to time, so that the contract with probationers will contain the regulations in force, and not those which have become null and void for a decade, and that the Lady Superintendent may thus know exactly the terms of engagement and other regulations, including the hours on and off duty, &c. Thus only can discipline and justice to all concerned be maintained.—ED.]

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Will you kindly allow me to notify through the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING to the members of the Matrons' Council that, after Saturday, the 19th inst., my address will be 431, Oxford Street, London, W. As the Journal is widely read by the members of the Council, and is its official organ, I hope that they will be good enough to accept this intimation through its medium.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

MARGARET BREAY,

Hon. Secretary, Matrons' Council
of Great Britain and Ireland.

Notices.

THE NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

This Bill, in pamphlet form, can now be procured, with or without the annotations, price 2½d., post free, from the Hon. Secretary, 20, Upper Wimpole St., London, W.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Editor will at all times be pleased to consider articles of a suitable nature for insertion in this journal—those on practical nursing are specially invited. The Editor will also be pleased to receive paragraphs, such as items of nursing news, results of nurses' examinations, new appointments, reports of hospital functions, also letters on questions of interest to nurses, and newspapers marked with reports of matters of professional interest.

Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)