

that "Matron" or the "Chairman" are opposed to Registration, there you will find the whole nursing staff supporting their intolerance, when in their inmost hearts many of its members are fully convinced of the benefit of organisation and legal status, both to the patients and themselves. I have been a Sister in one of these hospitals for several years, and until I obtained another post I did not feel at liberty to join a Registration Society, as it would have been pronounced "disloyalty to Matron." Now it is high time the public and Members of Parliament were informed that many nurses are not free agents in this question; it is largely an industrial one, and if just legislation is to be accomplished it must be done by influential outsiders like Miss Stevenson and others, whose livelihood does not depend upon their opinion on this question.

I may say that during upwards of six years' residence in a London hospital I never was consulted by anyone in authority as to my views on *my own affairs*—for, after all, the questions brought forward by the Registration movement are my affairs, as they are those of the whole body of nurses in the United Kingdom. The officials of our hospital were *anti-registration*; like sheep we were expected to acquiesce—and we did. Trained nursing is not a party question, so that Members of Parliament, whatever their politics, can look at this question of Registration with an unbiased mind. I am thoroughly with you in your view that it is time we trained nurses brought our case to the bar of public opinion. I feel sure the unprejudiced will support our plea—to have more systematic and thorough training, unbiased examinations, and the hall mark of Registration.

I am, &c.,

A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY FOR STATE REGISTRATION.

SHOULD THE NURSES' HOME BE SEPARATED FROM THE HOSPITAL?

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

DEAR MADAM,—I was glad to read the Editorial article in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING regarding the decision of the Governors of St. Barthomew's Hospital to remove the Nurses' Home from the precincts of the hospital. In my opinion it is an ill-advised suggestion. I know more than one hospital where nurses have at various times of the twenty-four hours to walk some distance from the hospital to their Home. After prolonged hours of duty they find it most irksome to have to change cap, apron, and shoes for bonnet, cloak, and boots. Of course gentlemen cannot be expected to appreciate this inconvenience, as their short hair is easily kept tidy, and their head-covering needs little or no arranging, and it is not always necessary for them to put on an overcoat or change their boots; while to nurses it means a considerable increase of time deducted from their leisure that must be devoted to personal appearance. In fact, I think to suggest the removal of the students' college from the hospital grounds would be more practical, and certainly less inconvenience to them, as they are not strictly bound to hours for duty or meals, and the weather does not seriously affect them. These are some of the inconveniences that occur to me; there are many other objections.—I am, dear Madam, Yours, &c.,

Dublin.

M. HUXLEY.

[We believe it is proposed to remove the Medical College also.—Ed.]

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

DEAR MADAM,—Referring to your Editorial article, I must say that I think it would be a most unwise movement on the part of the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital to build a Nurses' Home outside the hospital grounds, and I agree that the Matron and senior members of the nursing staff should have been consulted in a matter which principally concerns them. Anyone who from practical experience is in a position to judge must come to the same conclusion as you have done, namely, that such a scheme would prove disastrous to proper organisation and discipline, and unless the authorities contemplate considerably augmenting the nursing staff and giving them a longer time off duty and other advantages, I doubt very much whether they would not have great difficulty in obtaining a sufficient number of desirable applicants for training.

I know that when I applied at Bart's, some years ago now, for particulars concerning paying probationers, the first thing that struck me was the disadvantage of their Home being some distance from the hospital; therefore I took no further steps in the matter, and since then I have known at least six really good nurses who started their training at Bart's and left after a few months on account of this drawback.

If there is no available ground, what objection would, there be to putting a floor or two on top of the present and proposed buildings? It has been done with advantage in other hospitals; why not at Bart's?

In the hospital where I trained, the Nurses' Home was connected with the main building by a very long covered way up a steep incline; and even that, after a long day's work, or in the all too short two hours off, seemed a very long way. But to have to tramp back and forth, early and late, in all weathers, seems to me to be a most undesirable plan. There are already enough expenses and difficulties connected with hospital administration without adding to their number, which the Governors would be doing were they to launch forth upon this scheme, to say nothing of setting at naught the health and comfort of so many women, and, consequently, the well-being of the patients.

I most sincerely hope they will reconsider their decision before taking further steps, and look at the matter from all points of view.—Believe me, dear Madam,

Yours truly,

Brighton.

F. C. GOWER.

A MUCH-FELT WANT.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Miss Forrest, of Bournemouth, has indeed set an excellent example of public spirit in her latest venture—the organisation of the Home of Good Hope for the benefit of the poorer middle classes, who cannot possibly afford a higher fee than two guineas a week. But will the Home pay expenses? Every day skilled nursing becomes more and more expensive owing to the increased aseptic precautions necessary for the safety of the patient. If "H. T." would give some few details of the weekly expenditure in the various items, such as rent, rates, taxes, service, household management, &c., it would be most valuable, and might inspire others to come forward and try to meet the requirements of a very large class of most deserving persons.—I am, Yours faithfully,

ONE INTERESTED IN THE MIDDLE CLASSES.

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