

Committee which pays them. Such tactics make me very indignant.

Yours,

A STRONG STATE REGISTRATIONIST.

#### WHY PAY TO BE INSULTED?

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

DEAR MADAM,—The hostile attitude adopted by Sir Henry Burdett with regard to the State Registration of Trained Nurses confirms the opinion many nurses have long held, that, instead of being their helper and friend as he would have them believe, he is in reality their chief adversary. Since he recanted on the Registration question, when the R.B.N.A. was formed, he has ever been opposed to the best interests of nurses. Why is it that nurses are so "dense" that they do not see through the men who would have them kept in a state of subjection and in a position inferior to that of domestic servants? The medical profession is taking a very kindly interest in our endeavour to organise and establish nursing as a recognised profession for women, and much valuable help has been promised.

I venture to think that Sir Henry Burdett would not dare to meddle with the affairs of medical men as he does with nurses, and I cannot understand why we submit to such indignities from these laymen. As you say, "Nurses have always the whip-hand of his policy if they choose to exercise it." I, for one, intend to do so, and, fortunately, am in a position to influence a number of others to do likewise. Being the superintendent of a nursing institution, I strictly forbid the nurses to bring Sir H. Burdett's anti-professional publications into the house. Why should we pay to be insulted? We know what is at the root of all this opposition—money! You may rest perfectly sure that, from whatever quarter opposition comes, financial interests are touched somewhere or other.

I am, Madam,

Yours truly,

A STATE REGISTRATIONIST.

#### THE TRAINING OF NURSING ORDERLIES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Everyone who has the interest of the sick soldier at heart, and who knows the many shortcomings of the old system of training—or, to be more accurate, lack of training—in military hospitals, must have read with profound pleasure the present syllabus of instruction for Nursing Orderlies of the R.A.M.C. which you published last week.

As I read it there came to my remembrance the paper which I heard you read at the Nursing Conference at St. Martin's Town Hall in 1896, when you pleaded for the better training of these men; also the action of the Matrons' Council in 1901 in going as a deputation to the Secretary of State for War, at a time when to hold the opinion that Army Nursing organisation was otherwise than perfect was "anathema," and consequently showed considerable courage. Reform work is a thankless task, and a reformer is rarely a *persona grata* with the powers that be; but nevertheless there are amongst us those who, now that Army Nursing is on the crest of the wave, honour the names of the women who worked for better conditions when the task seemed a hopeless one. They at least have

the satisfaction of knowing that their work is not lost. What good work ever is?

Yours faithfully,

AN OLD ARMY NURSING SISTER.

#### Comments and Replies.

Mrs. P. W., Birmingham.—Read the article on the State Registration of Nurses by Lady Helen Munro Ferguson in the *Nineteenth Century and After* for February. It puts the case for Registration most clearly and forcibly.

Charge Nurse.—Apply to the Matron, 12, Sussex Square, Brighton, giving as long notice as possible. The inclusive charge is 21s. a week if a double-bedded room is occupied, or 25s. a week for a separate bedroom.

Staff Nurse.—It is always advisable for nurses to obtain experience in maternity work; indeed, in the future, when our profession is thoroughly organised, it is probable that all nurses will be required to have some knowledge of this most important branch. It is curious how it has been ignored as an essential part of a nurse's training, while at the same time instinct, and a true instinct, has made nurses deplore maternity nursing being in the hands of specialists. Until they seriously consider their own responsibilities to this branch, however, they cannot complain if it is undertaken by those whose training, regarded from a broad standpoint, must be considered inadequate. Probably, if you put your wishes before your Matron she would arrange that you should have leave of absence to get this special training without severing your connection with the hospital.

Hospital Matron.—You would find that a gas-ring in the ward kitchens would do all the necessary cooking—the boiling of hot water, cooking beef-tea and custard, boiling eggs, &c.—in the summer time. It should be fitted with a "grill" for making toast. You would thus keep the kitchen cool, and at the same time effect a saving in fuel.

#### Notice.

##### THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

All those desirous of helping on the important movement of this Society to obtain a Bill providing for the legal registration of trained nurses will find an application form on page vii., or can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. Secretary, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, 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.

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