

matters they happen to be greater authorities than even Mr. Sydney Holland.

Why, an infantile mind going over this question would know that a candidate unless she had the personal qualities required in a nurse would not be allowed to enter for the examination without producing evidence of the same. How, then, can it be said that these characteristics are left entirely unconsidered?

It is also assumed that this acquirement of technical knowledge is going to blunt all the womanly feelings in a nurse. What an insult to all nurses! Because their minds are to a certain extent to be occupied for a short time with their examination, they are to become practically "nursing automatons." What a reflection to cast upon Matrons, and those having the teaching and training of nurses!

I should have thought that it was hardly necessary to point out that an "utterly unsuitable woman" would not be permitted to get on the Register, and also, if she became "utterly unsuitable" after being registered, steps would be taken for her removal. If there had been any probability of these "utterly unsuitable women" getting registered, it is very certain that the Bill for State Registration of Nurses would never have entered the portals of Westminster.

The opposition to this Registration is evidently the outcome of biased minds, for, instead of bringing forward facts, they have assumed things which are not, and, instead of trying to understand the Bill, have discussed things which are conjured up in their own perverted imagination.

One consoling fact, however, remains. Registrationists need have no fear that such a forlorn hope as the manifesto is going to kill the Registration movement. Of course, opposition is expected, but something more dignified might have been given. The manifesto is more like the wail of a spoilt child than anything else. Against all progressive legislation there are certain to be the reactionists, and it is nearly always found that, as in the present case, "self" is the root of their opinions. It sounds well to talk about "dangers to the public," "the good of the community," and such-like phrases, but those holding certain monopolies are very loth to part with them, and are quite willing to sacrifice the interests of the many for their own selfish gratification.

Yours faithfully,

DOUGLAS BRYAN, M.R.C.S., &c.

Spa House, Leicester.

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

"The Toad beneath the Harrow knows
Exactly where each tooth-print goes."

MADAM,—The thanks of the nursing profession are due to those ladies who have so ably replied to Mr. Sydney Holland's manifesto.

I should much like to thank Mr. Holland for all his good intentions towards us, but, at the same time, to assure him that, as he is not a nurse, he cannot possibly understand our point of view.

It is once again the story of the "Toad and the Harrow." We nurses have listened long enough to sermons on contentment preached by those who know little or nothing of our lives and work except from the outside. But we who are under the harrow can alone know where its teeth wound; we are now going to wriggle from under it if possible. In other

words, we intend to agitate, agitate, and agitate until we—if we cannot entirely get rid of the harrow—at least break its sharpest teeth, and that in spite of manifestoes drawn up by men undoubtedly well-meaning, but who know nothing of the disadvantages under which we work, because they are not nurses.

I wonder if those ladies and gentlemen who signed the manifesto really believe that the public like to pay the same fees for a kindly but inefficient woman as for one equally kind, but thoroughly trained and prepared for her work? Or that it is a real advantage to the public that, at present, there are no means by which those women—kind, and sometimes thoroughly trained, too—who, having left the "straight" way for a term in prison, can, when their "time" is finished, resume their nursing work, as well as that other "work" for which nursing acts as such a useful cloak? At present we have no means to prevent this, but State Registration will, we think, go far towards eliminating these undesirables.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,
MARY BURR.

Comments and Replies.

Provincial Nurse.—Write to Messrs. Debenham and Freebody, Wigmore Street, London, W., Messrs. Garrould, 150, Edgware Road, W., and Messrs. Thomas Wallis and Co., Holborn Circus, for their illustrated lists of nursing requisites. We have no doubt you will be able to obtain what you need by post if you consult them.

Miss A. J. Taylor, East Finchley.—We were contemplating carrying out the suggestion which your letter contains; but we think it better to do so without making it public.

Staff Nurse, Liverpool.—The various missionary societies are often glad to consider offers of service from trained nurses, as the importance of this side of missionary work has been increasingly recognised within recent years. You should apply to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the Church Missionary Society, or the Universities Mission to Central Africa, according to the one with whose views you find yourself most in sympathy.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

Will the members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses whose current subscriptions have not yet been paid, kindly forward them to the Hon. Secretary as soon as possible, as the financial year closes on April 30th and all subscriptions should be paid before that date.

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 iii. of the cover, or can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. Secretary, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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