

keep an eye on the Bill for the State Registration of Nurses, and the claim that Boards of Guardians are to be properly represented on our Nursing Council, you omitted to report that the new Chairman, the Rev. G. Sprankling, in commenting on the matter, remarked that "if precautions were not taken the nurses would rule the Board, instead of the Board ruling them."

This ingenuous parson voices the fears of the anti-registrationists. This is the true inwardness of the opposition of hospital chairmen and the more autocratic section of the Matrons to State Registration—they fear their nurses. Why so, if they deal justly with them? The publicity given to their work by a General Nursing Council, if it is good, will merely dissociate the inferior from the superior schools, and bring the former up to the mark.

Yours,

A LATE INFIRMARY MATRON.

TERRIBLE PERSONS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—If the remarks of the "eminent medical woman" are to be taken as a sample of the attitude of mind of the anti-Registrationist generally, we "terrible persons" know where we stand in their estimation. If we are not prepared to slave for "a guinea a week" we are to be classed as a set of self-interested agitators unworthy of work or consideration.

I was very indignant when I read the report of the meeting alluded to by "A Very Indignant Woman," and I would ask all unprejudiced persons what sort of treatment we nurses are likely to receive from persons who grudge us a living wage, as these anti-Registrationists do? Let them read an article emanating from the pen of Miss Eva E. C. Lückes, Matron of the London Hospital, in this month's *Nineteenth Century*. It is a dozen pages of special pleading against trained nurses ever being permitted to have power to work or earn their living without the consent of the hospital authorities and Matrons of hospitals in which they were trained, and, I presume, as on London Hospital lines, to pay cent. per cent. into the hospital coffers for the proud privilege. This new claim put forth by Miss Lückes upon the part of the training-schools, that they are to retain, throughout their professional life, power over women who are not in their employ, and thus keep trained nurses always in a condition of tutelage for the sake of protecting the public against undesirable nurses, is an outrage to intelligent women, especially emanating from such a source. The nursing world has not forgotten, if Miss Lückes has, the condemnation openly expressed by the Lords Committee a few years ago of her system of advertising "thoroughly-trained nurses" in the papers daily, and supplying a confiding public with inexperienced and uncertificated probationers at trained nurses' fees.

That system has been modified of late years at the London Hospital, but still women are certificated after a two (instead of a three) years' training, and bound for private nursing for another two, and thousands of pounds have been, and are being, diverted from thoroughly qualified three-years-certificated nurses willing to nurse the well-to-do public, by this means—a most unjust and unfair state of affairs. No wonder the London Hospital authorities are so bitterly

opposed to State Registration of Nurses by a central authority. They would be compelled to readjust its arrangements somewhat—the better for all concerned.

Yours truly,

A LATE LONDON HOSPITAL SISTER.

THE BURNING QUESTION.

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

MADAM,—It seems to me that the opinions on "the burning subject of Registration" may be divided into three sections.

(a) Anti-Registrationists—viz., those entirely opposed to any form of Registration; (b) those wishing for reform, but disapproving of the suggested methods—viz., the two Bills now before Parliament; (c) those anxious to see one or other of the Bills passed.

I should like to ask those who have signed their names against reform if they are perfectly satisfied with the present methods, system, and general efficiency of the nursing profession? Surely this cannot be when one recalls the many instances in which it has been disgraced by unqualified persons; and when one realises the lack of organisation and inter-communication between the various schools.

I cannot believe that people holding such responsible posts in the nursing world, as many of these do, would sit down satisfied to oppose a method of reform—which surely all must agree is needed—unless they have some better scheme in view.

It would be of great interest to have some definite answer from them as to their views, in the matter, and why they are so strongly opposing an attempt at reform without putting forward a better suggestion.

I am, Madam,

Yours faithfully,

A PROVINCIAL NURSE.

Comments and Replies.

Provincial Sister.—The Nurses' Registration Bill (Bill 59), presented by Dr. Farquharson on behalf of the Society for the State Registration of Nurses, is published by Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C., and may be obtained direct from them, or through any local newspaper, price 1½d., or 2d. including postage.

District Midwife.—The most widely-accepted view of the causation of eclampsia is, according to Dr. Arthur Giles, that it is the result of the circulation in the blood-stream of a poison or poisons of which the exact nature is unknown. These poisons are supposed to enter the blood in one of two ways: either they may be absorbed from the alimentary canal of the patient, or they may be due to the chemical changes in her tissues collectively known as metabolism. It is held that the pregnant woman is especially liable to intoxication, because her organism has to deal not only with the waste products of her own tissue changes, but also with those due to metabolism of the fetus.

Notices.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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