

STATE REGISTRATION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Being associated in 1900 with Dr. J. M. Mason, of Wellington, in the production of the first number of the *New Zealand Medical Journal*, I inserted the following note in that paper:—"In a progressive colony like New Zealand it is rather remarkable that no movement has been started to organise the nursing profession of the colony. In New South Wales such an association has been established, with a Council composed partly of trained nurses and partly of medical men. The formation of such a Council, to which all applications for membership, with the necessary certificates for qualification, shall be submitted would be a boon both to the nurses of the colony and the public, at the same time serving as a guide to medical men that any nurses so registered had received an adequate and efficient training."

After the passing of the Act for the Registration of Nurses, in 1901, the following note appears in the *N.Z. Med. Journal* from the Chief Health Officer to the Colony, Dr. Mason:—"It is as much in the interest of the public as that of the nurses and the medical profession that one may be able at a glance to know whether the applicant for a position in a hospital has the 'guinea stamp' or not upon whatever skill in nursing she may possess or claim to possess." Similar Acts have been passed in Cape Colony and Natal. Just about the time of the end of the war there were many cases of women who donned hospital attire and imposed upon the public as "trained nurses" in South Africa. At that time it was very difficult for some women to get to Johannesburg to follow other employments, but there was nothing to prevent any woman wearing a nursing costume and posing as a trained nurse. I knew one case, which especially came under my notice, where an ex-barmaid from Johannesburg had been earning three guineas a week as a trained nurse.

It is not difficult to understand why opposition to the Registration of Nurses should have come from some of the London hospitals. It is often asserted, whether with truth or not I cannot say, that some people make money by "farming nurses" (forming societies for private nursing, or nursing staffs associated with hospitals). It would certainly be interesting to know, in the event of an inquiry, how much money earned by nurses in private actually goes to keep up the salaries of officials who may be said to have vested interests, which perhaps unconsciously make them prejudiced against a scheme which sounds practicable to most people outside the nursing profession.—I am, Madam, Yours truly,

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[We have good authority for stating that one London hospital Matron applied for, and was granted, £50 a year extra salary, and a Sister to do the work, when a private nursing department, now a most profitable concern, was opened in connection with the hospital.—Ed.]

SWEARING SURGEONS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I have worked in a good many Nursing Homes as a private nurse, and there are several in which I have refused to work again, and my

reason is one which I have not before seen referred to in your plucky paper. The Superintendents of many of these Homes are most hard-working and conscientious women, and yet from many surgeons they receive scant courtesy. It is no uncommon thing to hear a surgeon swear at the Superintendent before the nurses at operations, and this appears to me the more cowardly as these ladies are dependent on the cases sent by medical men to make a living.

On one occasion, when alone with a very big man indeed, at the dressing of a patient, he flung the whole bowl of lotion and swabs on to the floor because they were not a certain size, and then ordered me to pick them up again and wipe up the mess. I refused. This scene was all enacted before a nervous patient with an abdominal operation, and, because I would not apologise for no fault, the Superintendent "dispensed with my services." Presumably she dare not offend this important patron. This swearing at nurses is no uncommon thing, I hear, in some of the operating theatres connected with the "best training-schools," and, in my opinion, it is high time it was put a stop to. Superintendents and Sisters are themselves to blame for submitting to it—one cannot blame the junior nurses.—Yours truly,

A PRIVATE NURSE.

Comments and Replies.

Miss J., *Maternity Nurse*.—We do not understand your remark that you have been refused registration, as no registration of trained nurses at present has legal force, and the Royal British Nurses' Association, which formerly issued an Annual Register, now only publishes a Roll of Members. Only midwives are at present registered under Act of Parliament. Your best plan to obtain a definite status, and, consequently, to gain security for the future, would be to obtain midwifery experience and pass the examination of the Central Midwives' Board; you could then register as a midwife. Clearly you would not be entitled to registration as a trained nurse on an eight weeks' monthly nursing certificate. You can obtain the regulations of the Central Midwives' Board from the Secretary, Mr. G. W. Duncan, 6, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall.

Inquirer.—You will be able to obtain the Badge from the President of the International Council at Berlin.

Notices.

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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