

have a defined status, recognised by the State. It is only when they come before the public as *nurses* that their qualifications are challenged by those who realise what the name implies. Thus the statement which we criticised was: "All our village nurses are fully qualified as holders of certificates of the L.O.S.," which certainly seems to apply to their position as nurses.

The Conjoint Conference of Members of the Cornwall County Nursing Association, and medical men, recommended to the Association "that if the County Nursing Association would make rules to (1) ensure that their nurses are not to attend a confinement without a doctor in cases where the total earnings of the patient's household exceed 30s. a week . . . there could be no objection to the nurses being registered and practising under the Act." Of course, the Association can make its own terms with midwives whose registration fees it pays. Our point was, in Lord Mount Edgumbe's own words, "it would be unfair to preclude them from their right to be registered, as after next April they will otherwise be debarred from acting as midwives." Not only so, as, holding the L.O.S. certificate, up to that date they can register without further examination. After it they must submit themselves to examination by the Central Midwives' Board.—Ed.]

SELF-CONSTITUTED BODIES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I observe that Mr. Sydney Holland again attacked the Matrons' Council in his evidence before the Select Committee on Nursing. Is not his antipathy to this association of women somewhat contemptible? He calls it a self-constituted body. Of course it is; why not? And how is the Central Hospital Council constituted? By a few autocratic hospital committees that know less of nurses and their needs than they know of educational matters generally. Anyway, the Matrons' Council pays its own expenses, and does not provide in its constitution for taking charitable money to pay for its work, as the Hospital Council does.

I am an old Bart's nurse, and am not contributing to the Building Fund until I have a pledge that the Committee will not use any money to help Dr. Norman Moore to prevent trained nurses being registered, and myself and patients from being afforded protection from the perjurers, prostitutes, and adultresses, whose appearance in the Divorce Court and criminal dock you recently reported. Nothing can be more scandalously unjust than the present condition of affairs; and it is men jealous of granting legal powers to women, and the women in their pay, who are fighting against the just demand of decent nurses to have State protection, as all professional men have. It is hopeful that these illiberal persons are in the minority in the British Medical Association, whose vote at Oxford did them honour.

Yours,

AN INDIGNANT MEMBER OF THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.

[The Matrons' Council since its inception has had to run the gauntlet of criticism from illiberal-minded persons who object on principle to women having any convictions or any professional status. Because its objects do not commend themselves to certain Matrons, that is no reason why others should not co-operate to attain them. It is doing its work, and will continue to do it. We sympathise with the indignation of our correspondent, but we believe the unjust conditions

now prevalent cannot long continue. Organisation we must have, and it can only adequately be effected by a Central Authority with power to define and enforce a minimum curriculum of nursing education. The registration of those who have given proof of attaining this standard must follow in natural sequence. It is the *due* of nurses so trained and diploméed.—Ed.]

FLOGGING IN THE NAVY.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I trust you will continue to open your columns to the ventilation of this subject, and that your correspondents will be careful to communicate or comment upon only ascertained facts, for the truth about the matter is worse than the imaginings of those who do not know. One of the correspondents in a leading naval paper stated that flogging was only inflicted on young sailors for disgraceful or abominable offences. If he knew anything of what he was writing about, there is only one word that will describe such a statement. If it were true, a disgraceful punishment might conceivably meet the case, but should, in all cases, be followed, as a matter of course, by immediate dismissal from the Service. To pretend that the punishment as awarded and carried out can do anything but harm is, to my mind, absurd. One fact is that there are a certain class of men among the officers (the same percentage, perhaps, as elsewhere) who take pleasure in humiliating and inflicting physical pain on their fellow-creatures, and so do whenever they have the chance, and the rank and file are so used to enduring degrading punishments, such as carrying bags and hammocks, standing for hours facing paint-work, and so on, that this flogging differs in their minds only from them in the matter of severity, without perceiving its almost criminal indecency. The harm is to the young fellows themselves, who become different men to what they would otherwise be.

Yours, &c.,

London, July 25th.

AN OLD OFFICER.

Comments and Replies.

Staff Nurse.—Apply to the Matron-in-Chief, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, 68, Victoria Street, S.W. Staff nurses begin with a salary of £40 per annum, increasing by £2 10s. annually to £45. Furnished quarters and servants are provided and allowances are made for board, uniform, and washing.

L. O. S.—The Secretary of the Central Midwives' Board is Mr. G. W. Duncan, 6, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, W., to whom application for information should be made.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Annual Report, 1903-04, is now ready. All those interested in the efficient organisation of nursing should procure it from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Six copies, post free, 7d., or one copy 1½d. Gives brief review of the history of State Registration of Nurses.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

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

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