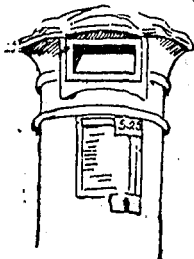


Letters to the Editor.



Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in any way hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

PROGRESS OF STATE REGISTRATION.

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

MADAM,—We, the undersigned, have learned with deep satisfaction that the Nurses' Registration Bill, introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Ampthill, passed its second reading on July 6th, without a division, and that their Lordships have thereby accepted the principle of the Bill, that the public are entitled to be able to discriminate qualified from unqualified nurses.

For twenty years the question of the organisation of the nursing profession by the State has been earnestly and constitutionally agitated. Thousands of trained nurses are in favour of this reform; the medical profession is practically unanimous in demanding legislation for nurses, and a Select Committee of the House of Commons has unanimously recommended such legislation.

But year after year this matter—which is of vital importance to the sick, which is above party, class, or creed—has failed to gain Parliamentary attention in the country where modern nursing has been most widely utilised. In hospitals for the sick and the insane, in schools, in districts, and in the private homes of all classes, the work of trained nurses is indispensable. In the Government Services, under the Admiralty, the War Office, the Home Office, the Colonial Office, the India Office, and the Local Government Board, trained nursing is also essential to the efficiency of each Department, and it is, therefore, a valuable national asset.

For these reasons, we confidently appeal to the Government, and to the two Houses, to accord this movement their most earnest and sympathetic support.

Nurses are willing to bear the full cost of the improvements they are anxious to see instituted by Parliament, and we ask that, upon any Central Authority constituted for the organisation and supervision of their profession, nurses shall have direct and adequate representation, with the same powers for maintaining high moral standards and professional efficiency already granted to analogous professions of men.

For the sake of the immense interests which are involved in this matter, for the protection and greater benefit of the sick, on every ground of justice and humanity, we most earnestly appeal to the Government to give early and sympathetic consideration to the Bill for the Registration of Nurses which is now before Parliament.

We are, Madam,
Your obedient servants,

- HARRIET A. ALSOP (Matron Kensington Infirmary).
MARGARET AMPHILL (Founder Lady Ampthill's Nursing Institute, Madras).
HERTHA AYRTON (Member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers).
ELEANOR C. BARTON (Matron, Chelsea Infirmary, Pres. Chelsea Infirmary Nurses' League).
LUOY BINNS (Matron, Royal Infirmary, Hull).
CLEMENTINA BLACK (President Women's Industrial Council).
HERMIONE BLACKWOOD (Queen's Nurse, President Ulster Branch Irish Nurses' Association).
MARGARET BREAY (Hon. Secretary, Matrons' Council).
ALBINIA BRODRICK (Member of Council, National Council of Trained Nurses).
SIDNEY BROWNE (R.R.C., late Matron-in-Chief Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service).
MARY H. L. BUNTING (Vice-President National Union of Women Workers).
MARY BURR (Hon. Secretary, League of St. John's House Nurses).
ELSIE M. CADBURY (Past President National Union of Women Workers).
SOPHIA CARTWRIGHT (Secretary, Registered Nurses' Society).
MARY CLIFFORD (late Poor-Law Guardian, Bristol, late President National Union of Women Workers).
R. A. COX-DAVIES (Matron Royal Free Hospital, President League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses).
MARY NEWCOMBE CURETON (Vice-President Matrons' Council, late Matron Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge).
GEORGINA MACKENZIE DAVIDSON (Member International Committee, and Legislation Committee, National Union Women Workers).
M. DEANE (Matron, East Suffolk Hospital, Ipswich).
ELLA HEPWORTH DIXON.
HARLOT DUFFERIN AND AVA (Founder Nat. Association for Supplying Female Medical Aid to the Women of India).
E. F. DWIGHT (Matron, Bagthorpe Infirmary, Nottingham, President Parish of Nottingham Nurses' League).
M. GERTRUDE EMMOTT (Vice-President Nat. Union of Women Workers).
MARIAN S. FARQUHARSON of Haughton (F.L.S., President of the Scottish

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)