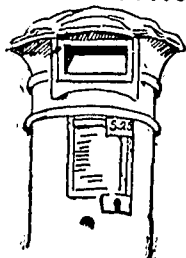


Letters to the Editor.



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.

DECENTRALISATION INJURIOUS TO SCOTTISH NURSES.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Many Scotch nurses, and those who have the good of Scotch Training Schools at heart, are condemning in no measured terms the movement which has taken place under the leadership of Dr. Mackintosh, Medical Superintendent of the Western Infirmary, Glasgow. The small committee who seek to have Scotland omitted from the Registration Bill now before Parliament is largely composed of Medical Superintendents and Matrons of Glasgow Fever Hospitals.

Miss Calderwood's interesting letter in your issue of the 27th February shows very clearly the evils of decentralisation. Nurses are constantly moving, as she says, and it is only fair and natural that Scotch-trained nurses should demand that their position should be the same on either side of the Border. This, under the Bill drafted by Dr. Mackintosh, would be impossible. It is a Bill calculated to undermine the fundamental principles of State Registration.

In reading over the report of the Committee one cannot fail to observe the exceedingly flimsy nature of some of the objections which are brought against the Bill now before Parliament. "The excellence of the training given to nurses in the leading training schools," the report runs, renders the examination by the Registration Council unnecessary. It would "place an undue burden" on candidates for registration. This is a very curious statement. If nurses are given a good professional education to meet the Registration Council's standard it is not quite easy to see where "the undue burden" will come in. Then the registration fee is an objection. The Committee would have shown greater discretion if they had allowed this objection to come from the nursing profession! No objection has been made by nurses in the United Kingdom to the registration fee, and although trained nurses are more highly paid in England, Scotch probationer nurses are, on the whole, better off than English probationers. The Committee, having formed these somewhat far-fetched "conclusions," "cannot recommend the nursing profession in Scotland to adopt the Bill now before Parliament." Scotch nurses may reserve the right for themselves of considering the desirability of any Bill for State Registration.

The Bill drafted and recommended by this Committee, were it ever to become law, would bring disastrous consequences on the nursing profession and hospitals of Scotland. A lower stamp of women would soon fill the training schools, for all who could do better for themselves would train in Eng-

land, or where State Registration is on a sound basis.

I cannot trespass on your valuable space further than say that, from all I can learn, it is not likely that Scottish nurses will look on quietly, and without effort, to save the profession and training schools from disaster. Wherever injustice steps in the public is a powerful force to contend with, and nurses have only to remember that they have a very kindly and generous force ready to back up whatever proper efforts they may make to save themselves from recommendations of an anonymous Committee which has acted, in the first instance, without consulting them.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours, etc.,

E. A. STEVENSON.

The Valley, Trinity, Brechin, N.B.

Comments and Replies.

Practising Midwife.—Messrs. W. H. Bailey and Son, 38, Oxford Street, W., supply bags of all varieties for midwives, the lowest price (unfitted) being 3s. 6d.

NOTICE.

OFFICIAL ORGAN.

The BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is the official organ of the following important Nursing societies: The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

The International Council of Nurses.

The National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland.

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses

The Registered Nurses' Society.

The School Nurses' League.

As their official organ is widely read by the members of these societies, the Editor will at all times be pleased to find space for items of news from the Secretaries and members.

Exclusive news being copyright, papers quoting from our columns must give the name of this journal as the source of their information.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

An application form for those who wish to become members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses will be found on page iii. of cover. It will soon be too late to help on the important work of this Society. No habitual reader of this journal can, we feel sure, be content to stand aside and let others found the future Profession of Nursing. Now is the time to help.

OUR PUZZLE COMPETITION.

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

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)