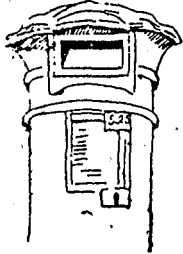


Letters to the Editor.



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.

REGISTRATIONISTS SHOULD CO-OPERATE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of the 29th ult. carries welcome news to Registrationists in Scotland. For some time it has been plain that two British Bills, differing only in minor points, are a hindrance to the passing into law of State Registration of Nurses by the Single Portal System.

Many Scottish nurses signed for the Scottish Bill, unaware that it is a Bill out of which the vital principles of State Registration have been extracted.

The Scottish Bill promoters simply sprung a Bill upon them, and they were whirled into it before they knew what they were doing. That a large number have extricated themselves from the net which was drawn in round them is well known, and now, when Sir William Macewen has taken the field, and is representing the party who are determined to fight for the Single Portal System for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Society for State Registration and the Royal British Nurses' Association need have no fear that strong support will fail them from Scotland provided that they ask Scottish nurses to support one British Bill.

The Scottish Bill, as we know well—thanks to the out-spoken manliness of Dr. Wallace Anderson, an old and well-known friend of nurses—developed out of an anti-registration movement by a few medical men in Glasgow, and has at present the warm support of a publication edited by a lay male individual.

In Scotland, we nurses who desire to see Registration upon a proper basis, class the promoters of the Scottish Bill with the Anti-Registration party.

In the columns of the *Glasgow Herald*, Lord Inverclyde has made the complaint that he cannot follow Sir William Macewen's argument, "That Scottish nurses are not British nurses." In his speech as one of the deputation to Mr. Asquith, Sir William Macewen very clearly showed that the Scottish Bill is not a "British" Bill either in letter or spirit, and he further very clearly showed that Scottish nurses ought to be British nurses, and that they are prepared to pass any examination conducted by independent examiners along with their English or Irish sisters.

That the two organised bodies representing the nursing profession will agree upon one Bill for the United Kingdom, providing for State Registration

of Nurses by the single portal system, and allowing Scotland a fair representation on the Council, is most earnestly desired by a large body of Scottish nurses. Union is strength, not failure.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

E. A. STEVENSON.

May 31st, 1909.

PROFESSIONAL ENFRANCHISEMENT.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Wherever women are gathered together nowadays, one hears the word enfranchisement, or its equivalent; it is in the air, it is everywhere; one's thoughts and feelings get imbued with its potency!

Is it not a gratifying and healthy sign of the times, that one scarcely dissociates political enfranchisement from professional enfranchisement? One regards them as sub-divisions of the same thing—the great fundamental principle of liberty of thought and freedom of action.

For many weeks recently I have been nursing an old gentleman—an M.P. by the way!—one for whom I have the greatest respect.

The surgeon attending him was a man of renown and great self-importance, and a baronet to boot! One day he took a seat at the table where I usually sat, and the first thing that caught the great man's eye was a leaflet announcing the recent Suffrage Pageant in which I had the honour of taking part. The following dialogue then took place:

*The Great Man* (turning sharply round on his chair): "Are you a Suffragette?"

*The Nurse* (the voteless worker): "I am."

*G. M.*: "Have you been locked up?"

*Nurse*: "No, I have never been to Holloway, but I honour all those who have been there."

*G. M.* (with fine scorn): "Do you indeed!"

*Nurse*: "Yes, I do with all my heart."

*G. M.*: "De-ar me!"

This pleasant little brush with the enemy was enjoyed by my patient and another doctor present, quite as much as by myself, for they both looked up and smiled in sympathy.

The great principle of enfranchisement and all it stands for should be in our blood as well as in the air.

Yours very truly,

BEATRICE KENT.

Notices.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS AND EXHIBITION.

TICKETS.

Admission to Congress and Exhibition.—Season Ticket, 3s., from the Hon. Secretary, N.C.N., 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Admission to Single Sessions and Exhibition, 1s. Admission to Exhibition only, 6d.

OUR PUZZLE COMPETITION.

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

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)