

not think we had made Registration a primary object. I replied that we had only existed a few months, and admitted that Registration was not our ultimate aim, but said I should like to be present at the Conference if possible.

Yet the whole question of hospital administration is rather our concern. Cases like that at Hemel Hempstead, and cases where a grown up woman has actually been ordered, in defiance of the Act of Habeas Corpus, to remain in premises when suspended from employers' service, and cases where women leaving a hospital, even with reasonable notice, have been threatened with actions for absurd sums of money, and have been fools enough to pay, *although no court ever yet has awarded damages against a hospital probationer for leaving*; and cases where nurses do not get copies of the papers they sign, or sign immoral agreements which give the hospital the right to terminate the engagement, but under which the nurse is not supposed to do so, agreements which serve to intimidate nervous girls, but through which a K.C. would put his foot—*e.g.*, there is no agreed compensation in the London Hospital agreement, but if a nurse go they ask her to pay; but if they break their engagement with her, they don't pay her; it is a sort of heads-I-win-tails-you-lose business, which I should like to see fought out in court, as the law is that both should be liable to pay for breach or none.

Yours sincerely,

A. K. PATERSON WINGATE, *Hon. Gen. Sec.*

London address: c/o. of Lloyd-George, Roberts and Co., 63, Queen Victoria Street, and 4, Murray Park, St. Andrews.

[This Association was formed after the publicity given to the manner in which certain nurses were treated during and after the Ruchill Fever Hospital controversy, beginning in 1907. We hope to refer to its aims in a future issue.—*Ed.*]

THE COLOGNE CONGRESS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I quite agree with your correspondent about the necessity for saving money for the Cologne Congress.

But what is wrong with the Post Office Savings Bank? Why should not each one save for herself for that little holiday in 1912?

Yours truly,

ONE WHO IS SAVING.

Heathcroft, Newmarket.

[To save for herself is just what each nurse wishing to attend the next Triennial Meeting of the International Council of Nurses at Cologne should do. But will nurses do this without co-operation and encouragement? The Post Office Savings Bank is the best place for the purpose, and we hope many little accounts will be started for the Congress expenses.—*Ed.*]

THE IMPORTANCE OF APPEARANCE.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I am enjoying so much reading how you became Matron of Bart's. It is always so interesting to read about real people, and how things really happen. After laughing over the mis-

tory of the "Tosfield" bonnet (I do hope it triumphed in the end) I was much impressed with your conclusion "that appearances must be respected" when reading Mr. Holland's evidence in the *cause celebre* of the week. Men seldom judge by anything but appearances and manners when selecting women for hospital posts, and many an excellent woman has been passed over because she has got a red nose, or a nervous manner, or an ugly hat. Evidently the genius of one of our most brilliant women journalists, whose work brought much money to the coffers of the London Hospital, was imperceptible to Mr. Holland, because overshadowed by a style of dress to which he objected. How wise you were, feeling confidence in your own power to do the work of a Matron of a large hospital—to look the part. Deserving promotion you might have missed it had you worn a toque instead of a bonnet! How absurd is the importance conceded to appearances in women.

Yours truly,

C. V. M.

PRIMITIVE METHODS IN HOSPITALS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Customs in hospitals become indigenous, and are carried on without change from year to year. Tea cups and saucers are used in but few of our "best training schools," and diet tables and serviettes unknown in many. At food exhibitions we see a display of spotless napery and tempting diet trays, for which prizes are awarded, but where are such trays and diets in use? I have worked in a good many hospitals in this country, and nothing of the sort is offered to sick people in the general wards. Our poor are becoming the worst fed nation in the world, and hospital cooking is notoriously bad. When I was young cottage cooking in England was most nutritious, and the population healthy. The pot contained soup, meat, vegetables, and pudding, and it was good. We should return to this *pot au feu*, if we want to empty hospital wards. And more nutritious "stews" should be served in hospitals, instead of lumps of roasted foreign meat, cold potatoes, and starchy puddings. The one thing above all others that the women patients would enjoy would be their own teapot, and a nice cup and saucer from which to drink their freshly-made tea. Stewed tea in mugs is a very poor substitute for the personal pot. This luxury used to be permitted at Middlesex Hospital, and I hope it is still continued.

AN OLD HOSPITAL SISTER.

Notices.

RULES FOR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

AN ARTICLE ON A PRACTICAL NURSING SUBJECT.

We offer £1 10s. for an article dealing with Practical Nursing of from 1,400 to 1,500 words, to reach the Editor, at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W., not later than Saturday, January 29th. By arrangement with competitors articles other than that to which the Prize is awarded may be selected for publication.

Each competitor must enclose her name and address in full.

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