

that fever training should not be compulsory, but this is fully guarded against in the Bill at present before Parliament.

It is with reluctance that I feel obliged to take exception to Dr. Robertson's statement that considerable prejudice exists on the part of general trained nurses against fever nurses. During all the years I have been a nurse I have never known a general trained nurse who had a "prejudice" against fever nurses. I am sorry for those whose unfortunate experience it may have been to come in contact with general trained nurses whose minds are prejudiced.

I have been a fever nurse, I have nursed a dying fever nurse, I have been more than once nursed by fever nurses, and I have superintended fever nurses. The impressions left upon me by these experiences are that fever nurses deserve better things than to be fixed under a fever register, or sent out as general registered nurses after having undergone a *four years' but only partial* training.

I am, yours faithfully,

E. A. STEVENSON,  
Vice-President Scottish Nurses'  
Association.

The Valley, Trinity, Brechin.

#### PESTERED BY PUBLICITY.

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

MADAM,—Your critical notes on the *Nurses' Year Book and Register* which my firm is producing, in your issue of the 17th ult., which I have only now seen, are based upon two wrong assumptions. (1) That you have seen "advance proof sheets" of the work; (2) that the book is "compiled by lay people."

The sheets you have seen are only *specimen pages got up for Advertising purposes*, to indicate the style the biographical information will take. The biographical notes in these sheets were taken from printed sources, and make no pretence to being authoritative.

The book is not compiled by lay people. On the contrary, the Editor is a trained nurse of many years' experience, and the biographical data will be in every case supplied by the nurse whose career is set forth. The printed forms duly filled up, are being returned to us in batches by every post, from which we conclude that our *Nurses' Year Book and Register* is commending itself to the Nursing profession.

Finally, let me say that I have not taken up this work lightly, and without appreciation of the organisation and expense it involves. I hope I am not presumptuous in believing that my firm will prove equal to it.

I presume you will give this letter a place in the same columns where your criticism appeared, and apologising for troubling you,

I am, yours faithfully,

ANDREW MELROSE.

3, York Street, Covent Garden, W.C.

[We beg to differ from our correspondent that we based our criticism on the forthcoming publication to which he alludes on wrong assumptions. Whether

the "proofs" sent to us were issued for "advertising purposes" or not is a matter of no importance. The information they contained is incorrect, and this is not denied by the publisher. The excuse is that "The biographical notes in these sheets were taken from printed sources, and make no pretence of being authoritative," and yet in a covering letter sent with "these sheets" we are informed that "This valuable work will not only register the Hospital Nurse, but every Private Nurse who is certificated, and who has obtained her diploma. . . . On this account Hospital Authorities, Local Government Boards, Doctors, and all Members of the Profession will find the *Nursing Year Book* absolutely indispensable." Our contention is that no firm of lay publishers should assume the right or the knowledge to "register" professional women, and that in doing so, if they print the inevitable inaccuracies to which we have drawn attention, they may give cause for professional damage. The work as advertised is "compiled by Helen Davidson," and we are informed Mrs. Davidson is not a trained nurse. Whether she is or not does not alter the fact that a firm of lay publishers have assumed the responsibility of professing to "register" trained nurses.

We regret that in good faith in quoting from "these sheets" sent out, as we are informed, "for advertising purposes," we announced that the Introduction to the First Issue "will be by Lady Helen Munro-Ferguson." This statement, we are now informed, was entirely unauthorised, and an apology has been offered by the publishers to Lady Helen with the undertaking that the advertisement will be withdrawn. Finally, we are informed that "this work has not been taken up lightly, and without appreciation of the organisation and expense it involves." Our comment on this statement is "Wait and see"!

We reaffirm our opinion that a social "Who's Who" could do little harm, although whether the fact that a nurse's father was "a butcher, baker, or candlestick-maker," or even a peer of the realm, does not appear to be of stupendous importance to the stability of our social fabric. Such details may gratify a passing curiosity, and nothing more. A Register of professional persons can only be usefully compiled by a legally constituted professional authority, and until Parliament finds time to set up such an authority it would be a blessed relief to us to be no further exploited by publishers for commercial purposes. Competition amongst them is now getting fast and furious. Would that they would turn their attention to the legions of "shoppies," or clerks, or typists! Why are nurses the only class of honest women workers to be pestered by publicity?—Ed.]

#### Notices.

##### OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

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

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