

Sir William therefore indicates that the Association considers it necessary that a nurse should be required to train in fever before being registered by the State. This means in other words that fever training should be compulsory. We are all under the hope and belief that under the vigilance of the Public Health Authorities infectious disease is gradually decreasing, and that it may be eventually almost stamped out. An Act of Parliament is not passed for ten or even twenty years' usefulness. Fifty years ago small-pox and typhus fever were not uncommon and probably any hard and fast curriculum drawn up then would have had these diseases included as a necessary part of a nurse's education.

To make fever training compulsory would mean nothing short of absolute revolution in the whole hospital management of the land. It appears to me to be a great cause for regret that such a proposal should be brought forward. The greatest caution will require to be exercised and weighty consideration given before any amendments are accepted to a Bill, which if not perfect, as few Bills are, is at least open to justice to both nurses and hospitals.

I am, &c.

E. A. STEVENSON,
Member of the Scottish Nurses' Association.

MORE CONFIDENCE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was pleased to see your paragraph under "Nursing Echoes" regarding the appointment of unskilled nurses amongst the Irish poor. The same mistake is, of course, made in England—I mean the mistake of calling these women "nurses," thereby giving them a misleading title. When I was a Matron a woman was admitted as a patient from one of the neighbouring villages who was described by the Sister as a sick nurse. On interviewing the lady who brought her in I asked, "Is she really a nurse?" "Oh, well, not a *trained* nurse," was the reply, "but she helps in the village when there is illness, and is most helpful and kind." "Then," I said, "she is a Cottage Help. Why is she called Nurse So-and-So?" "Oh, we call her Nurse because it gives the people more confidence." Comment is needless. The provision of help in cottages in time of illness is a very charitable and often very useful act, but it should not be confused with professional and skilled nursing assistance. To call such helpers nurses is on a par with the herbalists' claim to the title of doctor.

Yours faithfully,

M. MOLLETT.

Three Cross.

[Mrs. Bull has lately had something to say on the Degradation and Sweating of Nurses and of the treatment of cottage nurses, and prints the statement of one who has done cottage nursing in two counties. She advises Mrs. Bull to keep an

eye on the Benefit Nursing Association and says:—"the poor cottage nurses of the B.N.A. have to sleep with their patients and often injure their health in consequence. One nurse did not know the signs of a disgusting disease and got blood poisoning in her arm as a result. . . Also phthisical patients have to be slept with. Don't you think it is ridiculous for people to talk and lecture on hygiene and allow such things to be? . . . I think the committee very callous and indifferent as regards their nurses, who are bound under a three years' contract. . . Many of them do not know what they are signing for and what is before them."

It is a case of the blind leading the blind, and we have expressed the opinion before that the system of the Cottage Benefit Nursing Association consists [of sweating insufficiently trained women, and by dressing them in trained nurses' uniforms, deluding the sick poor with the belief that they are receiving the services of skilled nurses. It is high time the whole indefensible and very dangerous system was taken in hand by medical officers of health.—ED.]

A STATE REGISTRATION BADGE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In the JOURNAL for November 18th you call for an expression of opinion with regard to a badge for members of the State Registration Society. As a member from the date of the Society's initiation I am emphatically in favour of a badge and hope other members will be equally decided, so that we may not stop short at just talking about it. As a private nurse I have for years done my humble best to enlighten the minds of my public *re* Registration, and many of them look forward as eagerly as I do to the arrival of the JOURNAL week by week. I enclose postal order value 10s., 5s. of which I wish to give to the State Registration Fund, and 5s. to the Insurance Bill Defence Fund.

I take this opportunity of recording my personal gratitude for, and admiration of, your persistent and unselfish exertions on behalf of Registration and the general elevation of the Profession. And not for nurses only, but always the Cause of Women, and where Right and Justice need a champion, the JOURNAL and its teaching is ever to be found in the front rank of pleaders. There must be scores of nurses and women workers who can say like myself—the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING and its ideals have made all the difference in the work we have done. Personally, I should be ashamed to do poor work from low motives after reading every word of my weekly JOURNAL.

Trusting you may long be spared to carry on the great work you initiated, and with most affectionate respect,

I am, Madam, yours sincerely,

E. DINNIE,

Member State Registration Society.

Harrow.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)