

[We quite agree that hospital committees and Matrons should watch legislation as it affects nurses, but the experience of the past twenty years has proved that the units must rely upon themselves, that the progressive Matrons—and there are many of them—count themselves as nurses, and have done all in their power to encourage co-operation. Nurses owe these leaders a great debt. But the Matron who argues "I am the paid servant of my committee, and cannot therefore support what it opposes," and who signs documents in opposition to just legislation for the nursing profession, will be left high and dry in these stirring times to play her ignoble part.

The fact that trained nursing is an important cog in the wheel of social evolution makes it absolutely necessary that nursing education and economics should be placed on a sound basis by law. For trained nurses to find themselves legislated for and classed with agricultural labourers and general servants of the lowest class, as they are in the National Insurance Bill, results from the interested opposition of the anti-registration party, which has prevented Trained Nursing being legally organised as a Profession by Act of Parliament as it might have been ten years ago. We thank our correspondent for her gratitude, but have failed to find her name amongst the members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses! Nothing can prevent these constant attacks upon our pockets (this is the second Bill in one year which injures trained nurses financially) excepting a strong Union of Registered Nurses possessing the power of the Vote.—Ed.]

TWO KNOTTY POINTS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Can you tell me (1) if Poor Law Nurses are exempt from the penalties nurses will suffer under the National Insurance Bill—Naval and Military Nurses need not insure—as they belong to a Government Department, and are pensioned? (2) Is it true that medical men will not be able to give free treatment to nurses as heretofore?

Yours truly,

C. F. T.

[The Clause dealing with nurses working under Government Departments is by no means clear concerning Poor Law Nurses. They do not receive pensions as Naval and Military Nurses do, but a superannuation allowance if they subscribe towards it. (2) No one can foretell the results so far as free medical attendance is concerned. It is very probable that as medical attendance will be included as an insurance benefit, it may become a breach of medical etiquette to give it free. We foresee a whole floor full of troubles for nurses and poor women generally, if the Bill becomes law in its present form.—Ed.]

TRAINED MATRONS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I always read your excellent Journal at my Club, and have thus followed the Nurses' Registration controversy, and, of course, have become a convinced registrationist, as

reasons against better education and better organisation for nurses—there are none. I also always look for a fearless expression of opinion on legal matters which affect us laywomen. Perhaps I missed it, but I did not see mentioned the case of Lindner v. Gooden and others. A question I should have asked had I cross-examined the defendants was "Is the Matron a trained nurse?" It was not put forward that she was, and it seems to me it might have made all the difference in grasping the condition of the poor boy, who has lost his arm, if a thoroughly trained nurse had been responsible for judging of his condition. It is not presumable that his thumb would have been treated for at least 24 hours by a nurse before seeing the doctor. The doctor would have seen the thumb and ordered the treatment, and the boy would not have dared to disobey a trained nurse when she was carrying out the orders of the medical man, as this boy was stated by the Matron to have done. And again, surely a trained nurse would know when a patient had bronchitis, and he would not have been permitted to travel. I am interested in this case because the Matrons who look after the boys' health in many public schools are untrained, and I know of several cases of very serious neglect from ignorance in consequence. When mothers have votes in the near future let us hope their male children will not be compulsorily removed to schools managed entirely without mother influence and experience, and that it will be compulsory for Matrons acting as health caretakers of children's health, and nurses during sickness, to be trained experienced nurses. With citizen mothers, and registered nurses, let us hope that such tragedies as that of Austin Lindner will never occur.

Yours truly,

A MOTHER OF SCHOOLBOYS.

[We entirely agree with the demand of our correspondent for trained Matrons in Public Schools, and we believe that this reform has been instituted in several. By all means, votes for mothers and registration for nurses, we would also plead for women on juries, and see no reason against a Lady Chief Justice to direct them.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Enquirer.—We regret you were unable to attend the meeting at 11, Chandos Street, W., on the National Insurance Bill. All Parliamentary Bills can be obtained through ordinary newsgents, or, direct, from Wyman and Sons, Ltd. The National Insurance Bill (Bill 198) contains 78 pages of Clauses, and amendments are put down which take 98 more.

Notices.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR JULY.

July 22nd.—From what source is blood renewed after hæmorrhage?

July 29th.—How would you prepare a patient for paracentesis? What instruments and utensils are needed?

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