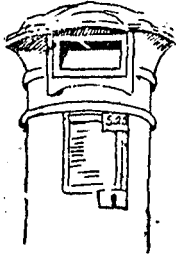


Letters to the Editor.



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.

REGISTRATION AT THE COLOGNE CONGRESS To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR EDITOR,—It has been agreed that at the Cologne Congress the subject of State Examination and Registration for Nurses shall be taken up for thorough-going reporting. A special effort will be made to collect evidence from every country where Registration Acts are in force, as to the educational, professional, and social workings of such Acts. Great Britain and Holland appear to be the only spots on the globe where an utter denial of the educational aspects of State Registration is still persisted in by otherwise intelligent men, and I firmly believe that, if the evidence of the rest of the world is impartially and quite fully presented, as to the wholesomely tonic effect of State Registration, it can be made impossible for the stupid attitude to be maintained that the whole thing is simply an unworkable sort of intelligence office for the use of employers. In a short time I will frame an outline along which the reports we will ask for should be framed so as to cover all important points.

I am, ever, sincerely yours,

L. L. Dock, *Hon. Sec.*,
International Council of Nurses.

NURSES ON THEIR OWN AND THE INSURANCE BILL.

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

DEAR MADAM,—I fear Private Nurses working on their own will come off very badly under the National Insurance Bill, as it seems probable we shall have to pay our own 3d. weekly, and that of the employer as well. Or would every patient paying us a fee be responsible for us during our term of service? It does all seem most disheartening if we have to take all this trouble, and for so little return. Many of us are insured in the Royal National Pension Fund, which is an Insurance and not a Pension Society, and if ill can always get treatment from a friendly doctor, or in a hospital. Private nurses on their own are, I fear, a somewhat selfish class of women (I am one). We just work for our fees, and keep out of all controversy. I begin to see this is not a very noble attitude. Please answer if possible about weekly payments.

Yours truly,

NURSE ON HER OWN.

[The Bill is far from clear in many particulars, and as private nurses working independently are lumped in with other classes of workers, it is probable that they must pay 6d. per week when

out of work and have the trouble of worrying patients for the 3d. when at a case. The trouble and indignity of this method will make it increasingly difficult for private nurses to work independently. Yes, we think private nurses on their own are somewhat selfish. Few co-operate with their fellow nurses for the benefit of the profession as a whole, so it is to be feared as they are defenceless they will suffer. Co-operative nurses, we fear, will no longer under the Insurance Bill be able to work on the 7½ per cent. basis as already their insurance for accidents under the Workmen's Compensation Act is a great strain on the limited fund available for general management expenses of Nurses' Co-operative Societies. All this interference by men who alone make laws and who do not realise the working conditions of women is becoming intolerable. Nothing can prevent tyranny but political power—the Vote—and if working women do not get it soon they will be driven out of the country to seek a living elsewhere.—Ed.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

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

DEAR MADAM,—Thank you so much for the postal order for 5s. for the Prize Competition, which I received last night.

Also for sending me a copy of the Journal.

With many thanks,

Believe me,

Faithfully yours,

MARGARET BAMFORD.

80, Nichols Square, Shoreditch, N.E.

Comments and Replies.

School Nurse.—Get "The Deaf Child: A Manual for Teachers and School Doctors." By James Kerr Love. Bristol: John Wright and Sons, 4s. 6d. net.

Anxious Mother.—A healthy baby should spend a large proportion of his time in sleep. It is not natural for a child to cry if he is well and happy, and you are to be congratulated that the child is so contented.

Staff Nurse, Bristol.—Drops ordered for application to the eye should be dropped in at the outer corner, because if inserted near the opening of the lachrymal sac they will flow into the sac and the eye will not be benefited. Lotions applied for cleansing purposes are, on the contrary, put in at the inner angle, because if applied at the outer angle any discharge around the lids will be washed into the lachrymal sac and serious inflammation may result.

Notices.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR JULY.

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

During the month of August the prize competitions will be discontinued.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)