

who are in Parliament to bring all the pressure possible to bear upon the Government to induce them to make the Nurses' Registration Bill a Government measure. Also that individual members are urging the members representing the constituencies in which they live, to vote for our Bill. If this is so, possibly our Bill may get a second reading, for men have votes, and the British Medical Association is a powerful body, as the Government already know to their cost, whilst we are voteless and, therefore, politically powerless.

It is curious that the medical profession, whilst fighting so strenuously over the National Insurance Act for their own rights, so persistently ignored those of their co-workers—the nurses.

We are most grateful to those medical men—Sir Victor Horsley among them—who are voicing our needs, and the righteousness of our cause; also for the resolutions which the British Medical Association have passed from time to time; and now that we have that very powerful body "foremost in the fight at the present moment" we may soon expect to see some definite result from their actions.

Yours truly,
MARY BURR.

Montreux.

FORCIBLE FEEDING IN AYLESBURY GAOL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—Will you allow me to say that I have written the undermentioned letter to the Home Secretary? I have also written in a similar strain to the Member of Parliament for my division.

I am, yours faithfully,
HERBERT CARRE-SMITH.

Holland Park Avenue.

[COPY OF LETTER.]

To the Right Hon. Reginald McKenna, Principal Secretary of State for Home Affairs.

SIR,—As a medical practitioner of nearly twenty years' standing, may I record my deep sense of regret and astonishment that you should countenance the practice of forcible feeding on certain of the ladies confined in Aylesbury gaol? It has been shown by some of the leaders of our profession that it is dangerous and admittedly a disgusting, cruel and abominable practice. I cannot believe that you know the real details of this method, or I feel sure you would not allow it to be used on these prisoners.

It is with a deep sense of shame that I learn it has been used on, amongst others, a lady member of our profession (Dr. Ede), and I shall do my utmost in every direction to call attention to what is nothing but sheer cruelty under the present circumstances. I am writing this purely as a medical man, having no reference whatsoever to party politics, or to the suffrage question.

I remain, yours faithfully,
(Signed) HERBERT CARRE-SMITH,
(L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng.)

THE SPIRIT OF THE MOVEMENT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—If Miss Griffin does not "in the least approve of the wrong and stupid offence," why petition for the offender?

Is it possible that readers of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING still fail to realise the spirit that is behind this great movement?

Miss Griffin says: "One is struck by the difference in sentences meted out for men and women." That, in itself, should call for some thought from her upon the subject.

Perhaps the W.S.P.U. organiser, which, I am glad to see, has started a branch in Maidstone, may be able to persuade Miss Griffin that there is no doubt as to the normal state of Miss Pitfield's mind; and, in fact, the minds of any of our brave sisters who are fighting for equality before the law. The struggle for State Registration, which we have had for so long, should be enough to teach any thinking nurse that without votes our work for the same is powerless.

I enclose my card, and beg to remain,
Yours truly,
NORMAL MIND, W.S.P.U.

[The militant attitude of mind is, perhaps, more difficult for trained nurses to understand than for any other class of women workers—the habit of obedience and self-suppression is so strongly enforced during training. Nursing is essentially a peaceable vocation, and the struggle for State Registration has proved very trying to those who love to have it so, yet how determined is the opposition upon the part of many of their employers to liberate them from economic subjection. Without fighting these reactionary men, we realize there is no hope of just conditions for nurses. We have this week sat beside the sick bed of Miss Pitfield, and heard of her sacrifice of physical well-being and worldly happiness for the emancipation of her sex. It is good that there are women prepared for such martyrdom—it is a terrible lump of selfish and timorous apathy they have to leaven. We feel sure Miss Pitfield is deeply appreciative of the work of Miss Griffin and others, in proving their sympathy with the pains and penalties she had to suffer in Holloway, by doing so much to further the petition for her release. Ed.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR MAY.

May 11th.—Tell what you know of modern methods of treatment of Lateral Curvature of the Spine?

May 18th.—Give some hints how to be popular as a Private Nurse?

May 25th.—What meals should be served in hospital wards daily; how, so that they reach the patient in an appetising form?

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