

## STATE REGISTRATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was delighted to note at the recent Nursing Conference how unanimous amongst the nurses present was the feeling in favour of State Registration—and would like to thank Miss Kent, for her convincing paper, and you, for your able speech, in support. Nothing has so opened the eyes of the rank and file of nurses to their helpless position as workers, as their treatment all through under the Insurance Act. I grudge no class of woman worker representation on the Advisory Committee; but it is nothing short of a scandal that, whilst midwives' associations, with three months' training, have representation, trained nurses, with four years' training, have none! Then factory girls' and domestic servants' unions are accorded recognition. Why are our organisations excluded? There must be a reason, and a sinister one.

Yours truly,  
London, W. MARY C. SUMNER.

## NURSES' FOOD.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In "A Nurse's Life in Peace and War" by Miss Laurence, she refers to being "cruelly underfed" when in hospital twenty years ago. There may be more food nowadays, but in many hospitals the nurses still go hungry because of the quality and bad cooking and indifferent serving of the food. It is this mismanagement usually by nurses promoted to be Home Sisters and housekeepers who know little of domestic management, that is the reason for so much of the illness from which nurses suffer in hospitals. It is surely a poor policy upon the part of the management. I should propose that a member of the House Committee should daily take a meal with the nurses. I feel sure a rapid improvement would be the result.

Yours truly,  
FAR FROM DAINTY.

[Upwards of thirty years ago, when a probationer, a dinner we did not enjoy was boiled neck of beef—a sort of slab of meat served up in hot water sauce! One day a gentleman came round the table whilst we were dining off this delicacy, and leaning over our shoulder, said: "A very nice dinner—a very nice dinner indeed!" We peeped up smiling, and politely remarked, "Perhaps if you tasted it you might change your opinion." Never can we forget the blank amazement of that face, so close to our own. A paralysed moment, and then the hasty retreat of that black-coated figure! It was the chairman of the House Committee, of course unknown to a mere pro. We were chronically hungry, and we remember being invited to spend a half-day with the family of a senior surgeon, who, in presenting us to his family, said, "now not a word to Miss M— until she has had something to eat." Kind man, if he had only had the moral courage to address the House Committee on the matter

how much suffering he might have averted. The same system of semi-starvation was in force in other two hospitals of which we had personal experience. Things have greatly improved in this connection—never did we see more delicious looking cakes and tarts than in a hospital kitchen a few weeks ago, prepared for the nursing and medical staff—all a matter of good cooking.—ED.]

## WHAT IS TO BE DONE WITH BURNS?

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have recently held the position of Out-patient Sister at a large hospital, where patients are constantly brought from the works and elsewhere, suffering from severe burns. These cases are very seldom admitted, as they are not very interesting, and are apt to smell in the ward. Surely nothing can be more terribly painful—and also a patient suffering in this way is apt to catch cold. Backwards and forwards they are made to come for dressings to the hospital very often—jolting in cabs, or dragging themselves along in pain and misery—and I have known several deaths result from such exposure. I think something ought to be done to save unnecessary suffering to these poor people. Some hospitals have a burn ward. Why not a burn nurse, to go the rounds?

Yours truly,  
C. F. T.

## REPLIES.

*District Nurse.*—Write to the Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society, 17, Bloomsbury Square, W.C., and Miss Buchanan, Pharmaceutical Chemist, Gordon Hall, Gordon Square, W.C.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR JUNE.

*June 1st.*—What is the right method of nasal feeding?

*June 8th.*—How do you care for clinical thermometers? Describe the various methods of taking a patient's temperature, and the way in which you would proceed in each case. What points would you impress on a new probationer in connection with the use of thermometers?

*June 15th.*—Mention the principal points to be considered in the general care of the operating room.

*June 22nd.*—What symptoms would lead you to suspect puerperal thrombosis of the lower extremities?

*June 29th.*—Describe the methods of applying (a) dry cupping, (b) wet cupping.

## TO PREVENT DISAPPOINTMENT.

Miss Mollett will be obliged if those who wish to join her party will let her know at the earliest date possible. There are only 12 vacancies left, and she cannot possibly extend the number of the party beyond 50.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)