

appeal to our own journal to work up a stirring meeting, as you say "the time is ripe."

Yours truly,
CLARA LEE.

Letchworth.

[We warmly approve Miss Lee's proposition. Indignation does not express our outraged feelings when day after day we read of criminal women, thieves, prostitutes, and worse, flaunting our once honoured uniform in the gutter and police courts. We will have a Public Meeting, and one Resolution shall deal with the degrading frequency with which the criminal classes are able without any restriction to cover their villainy with the trained nurse's cloak. We feel sure such a meeting of protest would be widely attended by trained nurses and the public. We have reported the case to which Miss Lee alludes on page 172.—ED.]

THE PROPOSED NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am of your opinion that without the definition of what a trained nurse is, that is, without legal status, no one National Association of Nurses is possible at present. The Nursing profession (only it is not yet a profession) is cleft in two. On the one side those led by yourself, the Registration party, which stands for Organization by State Authority, and legal status, practical self-government, standardised education, just remuneration, international co-operation and reciprocity throughout the Empire—a fine programme and the only one worth having—and on the other hand, negation, and power of exploitation all along the line—for that is what the policy of the anti-registrationists amounts to. How are two parties of Nurses, one demanding justice for itself and the sick—and another which cares for nothing but individual security and promotion, irrespective of efficiency—to fuse? It can't be done, and so very speedily Mr. Pollitt will find out. The policy of the proposed new National Association will be opposed tooth and nail by the anti-clique—or, if its policy is emasculated to suit their taste—the progressives will have none of it. For myself, I am quite content to be a member of the Society for State Registration, and thus affiliated to, and a member of, the National and International Councils of Nurses, until such time as our Bill becomes law—when, no doubt, much more unity will be possible, but the fundamental principle must be self-government. Male and lay manipulation would be fatal to the stability and healthy growth of any such movement.

Yours truly,
HENRIETTA HAWKINS.

New Southgate.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Will you kindly permit me to tell your readers that the replies "Yes" amount to 90, letters and post-cards all told;

that I expected many more, and arranged with our postmaster for a special forenoon delivery with extra care, and that I am refraining at the moment from drawing inferences.

I thank you for your leader in yesterday's issue, but I do wish you could put the importance of paying nurses adequately in front of registration.

Yours truly,
J. S. POLLITT.
County Bank House,
Blackburn.

[We put State Registration first because without the lever of legal status nurses have no power to help themselves. Education, salaries, discipline, all are at the mercy of employers who, in many instances, know nothing and care less for nursing as a profession, and the worker as an economic unit. Men with votes, professional and industrial, have claimed state protection, and what they find necessary working and voteless women require even more urgently. Our policy is, get adequate power and then use it conscientiously for the benefit of the whole community—nurses and patients.]

We have received very interesting communications from Miss E. L. C. Eden and Miss F. C. Joseph on the Nurses' Social Union, as it is affected by this question, but as we wish to insert them in their entirety, defer publication until next week. Nothing proves the use of a journal more accurately than the number of its correspondents. We gladly welcome such expressions of opinion whether we as Editor agree with them or not, but unfortunately our space is limited.—ED.]

A HISTORY OF NURSING.

An Appreciation.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM.—I am the proud possessor of the four volumes of Miss Dock's monumental work, "A History of Nursing." It contains within itself a mine of information, which will be of the greatest value to present and future nurses of all the world. When we realise all that is involved in producing this classical work in so short a time, I think we cannot but feel that we owe the greatly gifted authoress a debt which we shall not desire to cancel. Is it not one of the beautiful products of our beautiful Internationalism? Nothing has been spared to make it at once attractive and instructive. In the numerous photographs which so considerably enhance its interest, many pleasant memories are recalled. We meet again old friends and acquaintances, some by repute, others real and valued. Those who have long passed beyond the veil of sense perception, very wholesomely remind us of the superb courage and selflessness of the women who devoted their lives to what was then an unpopular and most unattractive calling. I agree with Miss Breay, the only fault to be found with this valuable work is that no photograph of the authoress embellishes its pages, a disappointment which will be felt by all who know her. They know, however, that this eclipse of herself is

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