

is free! Not free to *you*—you are a woman—except under very exceptional circumstances, and by great indulgence and favour.

Is not this the attitude of the vaunted "*Free Press*," which is but a tantalising anomaly to women? There is just one consoling thought about it—as the Women's Movement grows, and sweeps onwards and upwards like an irresistible flood, the opposition will use every futile weapon of despotism to stop it. The efforts now made to muzzle us will have as little effect in the long run as all the other forms of suppression; but, in the meantime, it is very annoying. I wrote the other day to the *Westminster Gazette* and the *Morning Post*, on the subject so near and dear to our hearts—State Registration—in response to an interesting letter in the former by our good friend, Sir Victor Horsley; and to comments by a "Representative" of the latter. The editor of the *W. G.* returned me my letter; he thought it time to close the correspondence! The other editor had not even the courtesy to do as much as that! The insults—both negative and positive—which men heap upon women are becoming unbearable. It is time Englishmen left off talking hypocritical platitudes about England being a free country, and a Christian country. It is neither, while women are slaves. I was particularly disappointed that my letters were rejected. They referred to the Deputation on State Registration to Mr. Asquith, on the 28th ultimo, which I considered unsatisfactory because unfair. Mr. Sydney Holland is allowed every facility, backed by unprofessional men—chairmen of Hospital Committees and the like—to state his views—views supported by misleading statistics—while professional women who want to speak the truth are gagged.

The public who will have read this one-sided correspondence will wonder at the apathy of women—more especially nurses—in not replying! Where is the remedy? There is none but the *Parliamentary Vote*. We must "fight the good fight with all our might."

BEATRICE KENT.

Colosseum Terrace, N.W.

[So partisan and unjust are the Harmsworth group of newspapers, the *Daily Telegraph*, and the *Westminster Gazette*, to those who support Nurses' Registration, that it is mere waste of time, either to attempt to present the truth on this question to the public; or to reply to "anti" attacks in their columns. We believe that recently the *Westminster Gazette* actually returned Dr. Chapple's letter on the recent Deputation which he introduced to the Prime Minister, whilst providing space for two attacks on the nurses from the pen of Sir Henry Burdett; and, of course, a lengthy epistle from Mr. Sydney Holland!—ED.]

CRAMMING.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am very pleased to see THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING entering the lists in opposition to cramming. I can speak

with considerable practical knowledge as to the training of midwives, and I unhesitatingly say that a three months' course is far too short. It is inadequate for nurses with previous training; it is ludicrously so when the foundation of instruction in general anatomy, physiology, and hygiene has to be laid before one can build upon it the special knowledge. I am sure every one with experience in the training of midwives will say the same.

I am, Dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Midwife, Chester.—The registration of the birth of a child must be effected within forty-two days of its birth, either by the father or mother, or, failing them, the occupier of the house, or any person present at the birth. After this time has elapsed the Registrar can require the attendance of any of these persons at his office to give the information.

Miss Bates, Liverpool.—We quite agree that it is time the mortuary was improved. If the committee of the hospital do not see their way to spend money upon it, cannot you raise a private fund, and then, with the permission of the committee, get the work carried out?

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

May 31st.—Say what you know about epilepsy and its treatment.

June 7th.—What do you understand by summer diarrhoea in infants, and what is the cause?

NOTICES.

WHERE TO GET THE B.J.N.

If unable to procure THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING through a newsagent, the manager desires to be informed of the fact. If you ask for this Journal, do not be put off with a substitute. Copies can always be procured at the offices, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., and through Messrs. W. H. Smith & Son. In Scotland from Menzies & Co., Glasgow; and in Ireland from Fanning & Co., Dublin.

OUR ADVERTISERS.

We would remind our readers that they can help THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING by dealing as far as possible with advertisers in the paper, and getting their friends to do likewise. Only the most reliable firms are accepted by the management.

STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

Full information as to the movement for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and application forms for joining the Society can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

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