

change of régime, the discussion of one of the fundamentals of those who trained at St. Bartholomew's before 1911 is forbidden. State registration of nurses is taboo within the wall of the hospital, swept off the plane of practical politics! Can we who in our day benefited by the freedom which then obtained refrain from expressing dismay at what is done, coupled with amazement at the pulling down of what for thirty years has been a salient characteristic of training at St. Bartholomew's—liberty of conscience?

ELLEN B. KINGSFORD.

(Cert. St. Bartholomew's Hospital.)

Home for Homeless Children,
North Finchley.

THE PROVERBIAL OSTRICH.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—So the long expected has happened at Bart.'s. Personally, I am rather glad that the Matron has laid her cards upon the table and intends playing the "game" openly. We know where we are now, and it also relieves us of all the remaining *esprit de corps* (I say remaining, for it was severely shaken in 1910), we may have felt for the community of our Alma Mater who have for a quarter of a century worked together and given of their best, for progress in Medicine and Nursing for the good of humanity, with the result that wherever we travelled we found "Bart.'s" was a word to conjure with. But now, how like the proverbial ostrich! To imagine that to forbid freedom of speech on the subject of State Registration within the Hospital walls, in this enlightened age, can make any difference to the progress of the movement! It may act as a stimulant to the present Probationers to take an active interest in it where otherwise they might have waited until they had gained their certificates. There is the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses, which has a membership of nearly 800, who, with few exceptions, are pledged to vote for State Registration. Comparatively few of these are now working in the Hospital. Far more of them are free women, scattered all over the world, and making their influence felt, handing on to their pupils the principles instilled into them during their years of probation. Nothing we do is ever really lost. It bears fruit at some time, often most unexpectedly. Also, the League is affiliated with the great International Council of Nurses. This most influential body owes its inception to a Matron of Bart.'s (Mrs. Bedford Fenwick), and its members are successfully working for State Registration throughout the world.

One can only feel regret and sorrow for the perpetrators of this suicidal step to the nursing of what has hitherto been regarded as the leading Nursing School of the world. Why do they not, (the "antis,") travel? Progress has always come from the West. They would be well advised to visit San Francisco for the Nursing Congress in 1915. Have they the courage to discuss the question

with our American President (some of them met her in London) and her able colleagues? I think *not*. I think we can safely anticipate that this action on the part of the present Matron of Bart.'s and her supporters will help rather than hinder the Registration Movement.

Yours faithfully,

JULIA HURLSTON.

Muirfield House, Gullane.

NURSES' UNIFORM IN THE DOCK.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Many Infirmary nurses have felt keenly the case of shoplifting at Selfridge's by the two infirmary nurses, and although premeditated as their thefts were, one is thankful they were not sent to prison. The fact remains, however, that it is very probable had they not dragged our uniform into the dock, and thus appealed for sympathy as members of a reputable body of women, they would not have been let off without punishment. My object in writing is to protest against nurses' uniform being allowed to be worn in the dock; it drags it in the mire, and is making it impossible for decent women to wear it with self-respect.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours truly,

MARY C. CARPENTER.

Kensington, W.

[We may object to criminals wearing our uniform in the dock, and procurers on the streets, but trained nurses have no legal status without registration, and therefore no *power* to prevent any unjust abuse of their uniform, exploitation of fees, and through the anti-registration press, depreciation of their work or status in the body politic. Trained nurses can be, and are, treated with the utmost contempt, and until they unite in self-protection, they can blame nothing but their own apathy and stupidity for their helpless position. Wake up!—ED.]

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Miss Day, Douglas.—The book is not, so far as we are aware, published in this country. We should advise you to write direct to the publisher in America.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

January 25th.—What are the principal requisites in the care of rachitic children?

February 1st.—What precautions would you take in nursing a case of venereal disease in regard to the patient, the household, and yourself.

NOTICE.

The Editor hopes that every reader who values THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, will get one or more new subscribers—so that its constructive work for the profession may receive ever increasing support. Address of Office, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)