

PROFESSIONAL REPRESENTATION ON KING EDWARD VII ORDER OF NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—Please permit me to reply to Miss Grace Tindall's letter in our JOURNAL of August 2nd, under heading "Authentic Information Required," in which she states, "In the issue of 26th ult. I notice that Lady Gladstone said, in opening the first King Edward Nurses' Home at Kroonstad: 'I should like to give a special word of thanks to the medical men of South Africa, who so kindly assisted us in drawing up our rules and regulations for nurses.'"

Miss Tindall then asks, "Are there no expert nurses, sisters or matrons in the length and breadth of South Africa?" and continues, "Will the lay upper ten never learn that although denied legal status, we really have got some intelligence in our composition, and are capable of making rules and regulations for the conduct of our own profession; I do not know if there are trained nurses on the Executive Committee, but I imagine not, or why should the doctors be thanked for making rules for another profession, and those most capable of doing so omitted?"

May I state at once, that, in drawing up the rules and regulations for the King Edward VII Order of Nurses—the memorial to our late King—very frequently in 1912 the scheme was laid before meetings of professional women, matrons of hospitals and institutions, their opinion invited and taken note of; and that it was unfortunate that in reporting the speech of Her Excellency, Lady Gladstone, when opening the Nurses' Home at Kroonstad, the tribute of thanks offered by her to the matrons who had helped to form the rules, and in the uphill work of founding the Order, should have been omitted by the press; presumably it was not in her notes, but their help was warmly acknowledged by her.

Unfortunately our matrons in South Africa are very hard-worked people, and cannot spare time to give all the help they would like in these professional matters.

Miss Tindall is right in her surmise that there is not at present a representative of the nursing profession on the Executive Committee of the King Edward VII Order of Nurses, but I have no doubt we shall soon have a matron placed on it. I quite realise the value of the presence and expert knowledge of trained nurses on the executive of their own professional Orders and Organizations.

Apart from their keen desire to help the people of South Africa to build up a really substantial living memorial to our late beloved King Edward, their Excellencies, Lord and Lady Gladstone, have left no stone unturned which might help to put this memorial on a firm and right basis. It is their earnest desire, and of those influential people who are taking a keen interest in the welfare of the Order, giving time and money to make it a success, that in time sick people, even in the most remote places, shall be able to obtain

the services of skilled and well-trained nurses. This, we must agree, is a very beneficent aim.

Apart from this special nursing work, my experience of fourteen years' work in South Africa leads me to the conclusion that nurses in South Africa, although they have State Registration, have shown no very active desire for professional organization, and I feel sure the time has come when we should move in the direction of professional co-operation and organization, as the nurses in other countries have done. As the nursing representative from South Africa to the International Council of Nurses' Meeting at Cologne last year, I was more than ever impressed with the necessity of forming a National Association of Nurses of South Africa—so that we could associate together for the benefit of the sick at home and abroad. There are signs that in this desire for professional solidarity I am not alone.

Feeling sure that we have your warm sympathy in all efforts for the uplifting of our profession and the welfare of its members,

I am, Dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

JANE C. CHILD,

Superintendent General,

The King Edward VII Order of Nurses.

The Dorothy Centre,

Kroonstad, O.F.S.

STATE REGISTRATION IN MONTANA.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The Montana State Convention of Graduate and Registered Nurses received your letter of congratulation on the work we were doing here. Needless to say it was highly appreciated, coming as it did from "Across the Seas," and individually and as a body we most heartily thank you for the interest taken and the kindly thought that sent the message.

Fraternally yours,

Montana Association of Graduate
and Registered Nurses.

HELENA E. CURTIS, R.N.,

Corresponding Secretary.

Butte, Montana.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

September 27th.—Describe the nursing of a case of enteric fever.

October 4th.—What are the main points of difference between the rashes of small-pox and chicken-pox?

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.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)