

DEAR MADAM,—Have just received my JOURNAL and think your Protest splendid. My great regret is that I was not able to be with you on the Parade on the 14th inst. If the general public once realise the chaotic condition of the nursing world, something to improve it may get done. This case of "Queenie Gerald" and "Nurse Betty" is a grand eye-opener. With many congratulations and thanks.

Yours sincerely,
MARY BURR.

Villa Valaisanne,
Montreux.

DEAR MADAM,—Will anything be done when Parliament meets to draw its attention to the frightful dangers to which the public are subjected when needing private nurses, owing to the ease with which undesirable persons can obtain access to their houses in this capacity? I have written to my Member of Parliament on the subject, and hope to induce many other nurses to do so.

Yours truly,
INDIGNATION.

DEAR MADAM,—The Nurses here would like to send a round robin from this hospital expressing gratitude for the spirited Protest made by Miss B. Kent and others, and for the manner you have dealt with the "Nurse Betty" business throughout in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, but Matron thinks better not without consent of the committee. So I am personally sending you my thanks—things have indeed come to a pretty pass, when we as members of the Nursing Profession have no redress, when women who help to run disorderly houses may continue to nurse in private houses when removed from the Midwives Roll. We are all very indignant. It is a disgrace to the community that we have no Central Nursing Board to protect nursing interests, as medical practitioners and midwives have. No wonder there is a shortage of probationers. I hope it will continue until the Government deals justly with us.

Yours truly,
AMY CALTHORPE.

[We thank "S. F." and Sister Martha for their letters on the same topic, they will appear next week.—ED.]

DEAR LADY,—I read of your protest with deep thankfulness and pride in you and your comrades. Would that I had met some of you, for I feel how splendidly effective your simple dresses must have been. May I wish you SPLENDID success, and the best of everything?

Yours in deepest sympathy,
PHILIPPA BENNINGFELD.

Seymour Road,
Church Finchley, N.

[This letter was addressed to Miss Kent by a stranger. It is encouraging.—ED.]

EXAMINATION AND CHARACTER.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Some time ago, when reading "Queen Victoria's Letters" I came across some remarks of Mr. Gladstone that seem to shed considerable light upon the connection between examination and character. Mr. Gladstone was about to introduce a measure to throw open the Civil Service to competitive examination, and the Queen was apprehensive lest the result would be to get a large majority of merely clever people in the Service who would lower its moral tone. To this Mr. Gladstone replied:

"Experience at the Universities and public schools of this country has shown that in a large majority of cases the test of open examination is also an effectual test of character; as, except in very remarkable cases, the previous industry and self-denial which proficiency evinces, are rarely separated from general habits of virtue."

In Sir E. T. Cook's "Life of Florence Nightingale," the old well-worn anti-registration fallacies are brought out once more—chief amongst them being the idea, so strongly held by Miss Nightingale that the Registration of Nurses would weaken the safeguards as to character. It appears to me that Mr. Gladstone's answer to the Queen has considerable bearing upon this kindred question—more especially as, in the case of Civil Servants, there is only a paper examination—whilst in the case of Nurses there is, in addition, the daily discipline and inspection of years.

Believe me, Dear Madam,
Seagry Road, Wanstead. Yours truly,
G. F. WATES.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

December 6th.—In washing a newly-born infant for the first time, what would you specially observe, what abnormalities might you find?

December 13th.—Give your methods of syringing the eye, the ear, and the nose?

December 20th.—How would you control until arrival of surgeon bleeding from:

- (1) A varicose ulcer of the leg?
- (2) A stab wound in the thigh?
- (3) A wound between the wrist and elbow?

December 27th.—Mention three symptoms that might indicate the beginning of mastitis. If ice-bags are ordered, what is the proper method of procedure?

OUR CHRISTMAS COMPETITION.

Four Five Shilling Prizes will be awarded in December for the best toys made at a cost of not more than 1s. The toys must be sent to the Editorial Office, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, with a coupon in the issue of December 6th. They will be sent to Superintendent Nurses for distribution amongst the children in workhouse infirmaries.

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