

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

*Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in any way hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

## THE VOLUNTARY NURSING COLLEGE SCHEME.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The report of a meeting with Mr. Stanley and his supporters in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of the 4th inst., furnishes truly astonishing reading.

Mr. Stanley has not yet explained why, or if, he was in ignorance of the fact that a Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses is now before Parliament. He has not yet thrown any light on the grounds of his assertion that there is no desire on the part of those who are responsible for the training of nurses, or nurses themselves, for any form of State Registration. These statements were contained in a circular letter signed by him.

At the meeting in question, Mr. Stanley is reported to have said that he thought "all present were practically in favour of some form of State Registration." He "was anxious to bring in a Bill." He "did not think there were any points of difference between them." He "did not see why that Bill should not be the Nurses' Registration Bill before Parliament." He "should like those who had fought for the cause to get the credit of it."

Now, what is the reason for all this confusion of ideas and talk? A Bill is before Parliament, in charge of Major Chapple. Previous to Major Chapple, Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson took charge of the Bill; and previous Bills were taken charge of by Lord Amptill and Dr. Farquharson. What sense would there be in Mr. Stanley bringing in "another of the same," seeing he is satisfied with the present Bill? Why does he seek to interfere, instead of letting well alone? If he is sincere in saying he would like those who have fought for Registration all along to get the credit of it, why has he gathered round him some of those who have all along been fighting against it and doing their utmost to hinder and hurt the cause?

The quibble about "recognition" meaning more than Registration will not add lustre to the attitude of those who advance it. Far from meaning more, as we all know, it may mean very little. From *re* (=again), and *cognoscere* (=to know), recognition may mean nothing more than a passing nod. Registration, on the other hand, means a written record of facts. State Registration, therefore, means a written register, kept up to date and under the control of the State.

I am, Yours faithfully,

"Bay View,"  
Johnshaven.

E. A. STEVENSON.

## WE MUST STAND FIRM FOR LEGAL REGISTRATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The scheme proposed by the Hon. Arthur Stanley is naturally attracting a great deal of attention from all Registrationists who stand firm to the principle of *legal status*. I am myself watching every phase of it with interest—not to say anxiety. To all those who can truly estimate the situation, it can only appear supremely unjust and injurious. I gather from what I hear that forms are being sent to Hospitals for the Nurses to sign, in favour of the Scheme; and I have even heard of a Matron who has *commanded* her Nurses to sign it! And this before they have had any chance of seeing and studying the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the proposed College of Nursing. I would most earnestly counsel Nurses, in their own interest, to pause before committing themselves so seriously. I ask myself, as I rub my eyes, if I am dreaming, or do we really mean what we say when we call ourselves a democratic people!

On the Council of Management, it is not proposed to place a single independent nurse, a matron or nurse, who is not dependent on some form of employer! Moreover, the proposed scheme is approved by some of the most autocratic bodies who have opposed legal registration; and who will nominate the first Council for the College, and practically govern the nursing profession.

Where does real self-government come in? While other countries are keeping the march of time, we are like crabs walking sideways. Why, the insular prejudice of some of us is so amazingly strong that we feel irritated at the very mention of the progress of other countries! But we are not all crabs, and many of us who have in the past proved our earnest belief in organizing our work on a legal basis—that is, by Act of Parliament—will never agree to the dangerous scheme as outlined in Miss Haughton's Paper, which would side-track State Registration for at least a decade. We await impatiently the issue of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the proposed Nursing College, before taking definite action in defence of registration of trained, as opposed to untrained nurses, for which the new Scheme provides. As THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is the official organ of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, of which I have long been a member, may I request that my letter may appear in its next issue, if possible?

Yours, &c.,

Colosseum Terrace, N.W. BEATRICE KENT.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

March 25th.—What care should refrigerators receive? How would you preserve ice?

April 1st.—How would you arrange for the nursing and comfort of a patient with dropsical legs?

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