

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—We busy nurses, who have no time at this terrible moment of our dear country's history to trouble about our own affairs, have to thank you greatly for your little signed article in last week's JOURNAL on "Government by Consent." We know the names of many of the Matrons who have been appointed to govern us by seven laymen who know nothing of our affairs, but we know nothing of their work for the great Cause, the "Organisation of the Nursing Profession by the State," which many of us have supported for nearly thirty years with work and money. Many of us therefore feel that our idea of State Registration and that of those who have for so long opposed it, may be founded on an entirely different basis. Indeed, to judge from the Constitution of the College of Nursing, Limited, under which these ladies have accepted office, it is at once apparent that this is so. They are prepared to govern us, and we want power to govern ourselves. We will not be governed without consent, so if we are to have peace and progress they must realise this vital principle at once. Let us hope this just basis of organisation will be agreed on between the State and Voluntary registrationists when they meet to consider the constitution of the Governing Body, the General Nursing Council, to be set up by Act of Parliament in a Nurses' Registration Bill. We had better have no registration at all than any form of despotism.

Yours truly,

CLARA LEE,  
Cert. St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Letchworth.

[These two letters have been held over for want of space. The article appeared on the 29th April.—ED.]

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—It would be well for the promoters of the College of Nursing to ponder on the following lines of Tacitus in C. 13 of Agricola:—

"Ipsi Britannii dilectum ac tributa et iniuncta imperii munera impigre obeunt, si iniuriæ absint: has aegre tolerant, iam domiti ut pareant, nondum ut servant."

Which, being translated, reads:—

"As to the British themselves, they are ready to submit without murmur, actively and quietly, to enrolment and taxation, provided they are not treated with injustice: but injustice they resent; enough that they will comply as obedient subjects, whilst they will not bear being treated as slaves."

M. D.

#### "THE PASSION OF DOMICILE."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—It is little I can tell you beyond what has been in the papers, as if I wrote the truth, and you published it, the B.J.N. would probably be suppressed. Here in Dublin the nursing profession is naturally in deep sorrow over the riots and terrible loss of life, and those

of us who love Dublin look on the blackened ruins with grief—in time buildings can be erected, but the dead cannot be brought to life. We realise the death penalty must be paid for murder, but every woman's heart is wrung to know that in our midst young men are being shot, and others blotted out in penal servitude for life. Indeed we can hardly bear to think of all this misery, and to know that a firm government in past years might have prevented it. Nurses are mostly strong loyalists, although I know patriots who are not, and it is because it is so difficult for the English to understand the Irish, and to realise their real feelings and convictions, that there has always been trouble in governing them. They really do consider the English a foreign people, and so they are in religion, and in temperament. The Irish are a very spiritual people. Their love of country is something of the soul—not in any way material—they have visions, and indeed in "The Seventh Marchioness of Rivière" which you wrote some years ago, and which I have re-read several times, your heroine in it described the "Passion of Domicile"—that is just a passion with our people. I once heard the late Mrs. Kildare Tracey protest: "How can you expect the clever Irish to be governed by the stupid English?" It is that—the temperaments so often clash.

For instance a few weeks ago a report on good authority was rife in the nursing world here that the Matron-in-Chief of the Joint War Committee had invited an Englishwoman trained in London, who is now Matron of a Dublin hospital, to take a seat on the Council of the Nursing College "to represent Ireland!" We have our Irish Matrons' Association, and our Irish Nurses' Association, constitutionally organised and governed, and yet an English woman invites an alien in nationality, sentiment, and training to represent us without our consent! That is the sort of thing we object to, which we consider stupid, and which provokes "wigs on the green."

A PATRIOTIC IRISHWOMAN.

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

May 20th.—How would you nurse a patient in a continuous bath?

May 27th.—What is uterine inertia? What are its varieties, and how would you treat each kind?

#### FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

Candidates for the French Flag Nursing Corps Service in France can be interviewed on Fridays, May 12th and 19th, 2.30 to 4.30 p.m., at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., or by arrangement with the Hon. Secretary. Candidates must be well educated, and hold a certificate for three years' general training, which they should bring for inspection. Experience in fever nursing and massage, and a knowledge of French are additional advantages.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)