

[In issuing their "protest" against the decisions of the Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses, the Hon. Officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association, acting in the name of their Association, which is affiliated in the Central Committee, are acting in an entirely unconstitutional manner, and we hope that our readers will realise that the "protest" is an expression of the opinion of the four signatories and nothing more. As the initiator and first member of the R.B.N.A., I disapprove of their policy and their protest, concerning which the members of the Association have never been consulted.

At the meeting of the Central Committee on October 21st, it reaffirmed its determination to amend its own Nurses' Registration Bill, and to issue a "Statement" to the nursing profession and the public concerning the negotiations which for months had taken place between it and the College of Nursing, Ltd., and which had not resulted in agreement on a Conjoint Bill. The Central Committee referred the drafting of the Statement to its Executive Committee, which has carried out its directions. Whether the hon. officers of the R.B.N.A. approve of it or not is not the question; the Statement records facts, and their attempt to obstruct the considered opinion of the Central Committee and its directions to its Executive will not influence the question at issue—the determination of the Central Committee to protect the rights of trained nurses in any Bill for their registration which it supports.

Dr. Bezly Thorne and Mr. Comyns Berkeley, R.B.N.A. delegates on the Central Committee, have accepted office on the College of Nursing, Ltd., as a Vice-President and as Hon. Treasurer, respectively; they are therefore jointly responsible for the College Bill, of which the Central Committee does not approve. Their position is anomalous, and for the harmonious conduct of business they should retire from one organization or the other. The Nurses' organizations grouped in the Central Committee strongly object to the constitution of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and to the constitution of its Scottish Board, and they can agree to no Bill which does not protect the nursing profession as a whole from government by employers and hospital officials, and they strongly deprecate the attempt of the officers of the R.B.N.A. to over rule the considered opinion and overwhelming vote of the Central Committee—a policy which they intend to meet with uncompromising opposition.

The medical hon. officers of the R.B.N.A. have always been out of touch and sympathy with progressive nursing thought—which attitude produced revolution in its ranks twenty years ago—since which time the educated and intelligent minority of the nursing profession have organized their own self governing associations as trained nurses all over the world have done, and intend to form and express their opinions on their own professional affairs. It is a pity the hon. officers of the R.B.N.A. have not realized this fact.—Ed.]

GRATEFUL FOR THE "STATEMENT."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I beg to thank you for placing the Registration Case, up-to-date, so plainly before us in last week's issue. As you are aware, we nurses have very little time to study documents; and many of us are most grateful for the "Statement." Unless the benefits the Central Committee are fighting for are inserted in our Bill, we are better as we are. Please also believe that we most strongly object to the cowardly personal attacks made upon you in the "anti" registration papers, because you prefer to stand out against powerful persons, who are no more in favour of real State Registration now than they were before; and journals which blow hot and cold on registration, with such bare-faced effrontery, cannot expect to exercise influence with sensible nurses.

Yours sincerely,

JEAN MACINTYRE.

Glasgow.

[We have received a large number of letters this week to the same effect, for which many thanks.—Ed.]

PAPER SUPPLY RESTRICTIONS.

To ensure obtaining THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING every week you must absolutely give a definite order to a newsagent, or order it from 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES, 431, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.

Trained nurses who approve of the organisation of nursing by a General Nursing Council on which trained nurses have direct and adequate representation, and which will maintain the three years' standard before registration, should join the above Society.

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 as advertisers.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

December 16th.—What is anæmia? Why is diet an essential part of its treatment?

December 23rd.—What is leprosy? What progress has been made in its treatment?

December 30th.—What diseases may be conveyed by carriers, and how do they carry typhoid?

As we go to press we learn that the first examination for the certificate of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland took place recently in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen simultaneously. Seventy-seven candidates entered for the examination, and 69 were successful in passing.

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