

without legislation at all. Abuses there may be, but at least at present we are free agents once we are certificated. No male professional or industrial workers would submit to having their work and lives controlled by their past employers, and we nurses must scan very carefully any suggestion likely to place us by legislation in such a dangerous position. No one could have attended the recent meeting at St. Thomas' Hospital without realising this danger. Matrons of big hospitals were on the platform, but the Hall was almost entirely filled with people other than members of our profession, and it was these people who discussed our affairs, and had a right as members of the Consultative Board to do so. I am not enamoured with the College Constitution, and think with you, as it at present stands, it is highly dangerous to personal liberty. If when a Bill emanating from the same source becomes law we nurses disapprove of its provisions, all we can do is to refuse to register, and I suppose be ranked as quacks—better that than coercion.

Yours faithfully,
AN IRISH SISTER.

[We learn that the Constitution of the College of Nursing, Limited, is being reconstructed.—ED.]

ONE PORTAL TO THE GENERAL REGISTER.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I greatly rejoice to note in your last issue that you have spoken out on the attempt now being made by the National Poor Law Officers' Association to enrol trained Matrons and nurses, and in consequence to claim to represent Poor Law Nursing opinion on the Council of the College of Nursing. What can the members of this Association know about the training of nurses, and their educational system, excepting what they learn from their Matrons? If the Governing Body of our profession is to be composed of lay Poor Law Guardians, then it is high time to make a protest. The Association, as you say, has its uses, but what can Workhouse Masters and subordinate Workhouse officers, including the porters, know of our highly skilled professional work? This stirring up of hospital and infirmary managers to interfere with our professional organization and legislation will have fatal results if it is encouraged. To talk of self-government for nurses is nonsense if lay persons are to take part in our General Nursing Council. It is an educational body, and should be composed only of persons who understand professional matters. I agree with you that Poor Law Nurses should form their own Association, and take their stand as general nurses—not as specialists in any way. We Matrons who inspire high professional ideals in nurses trained in Poor Law Infirmaries are not "enemies within the gates" because we object to emphasising a difference between hospital and infirmary nurses. Both are general nurses, and I hope the effect of legislation will be to define an efficient standard of training for all nurses to which they can by tuition and practice

attain, and that by such a system, much inequality in professional status and in chance of promotion will be minimised. But this is not to be done by further interference upon the part of persons who are not qualified to express an opinion on professional nursing.

Yours truly,

A POOR LAW INFIRMARY MATRON.

[We are quite alive to this danger.—ED.]

MEDICAL WOMEN AND STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Can you tell me why medical women have shown such a lack of sympathy with the question of State Registration of trained nurses? I never met one who has helped us in our long struggle for systematised training and better professional education—indeed, they appear to think we are a sort of glorified domestic servant. I have worked with quite a number since the beginning of the War, and have been unpleasantly surprised to notice this attitude—and several assume to be trained nurses, plus medical practitioners, which they are not. I do not like to own it, but medical men treat nurses with far greater courtesy than medical women.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours truly,

SISTER IN WAR HOSPITAL.

[We fear this criticism is founded on fact; we have been working for nearly thirty years for the organization of trained nursing by the State and have received no encouragement from medical women, and in many instances have found them opposed to just conditions for trained nurses—such as would be secured by legislation. Recent events in connection with the College of Nursing have emphasised this regrettable attitude.—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

July 29th.—What methods have you seen employed for the treatment of infected wounds, and with what results?

August 5th.—How would you prevent the spread of epidemics by flies, fleas, lice and bugs in war time?

August 12th.—How would you organise the nursing in a military hospital of 100 beds and upwards?

FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

Candidates for the F.F.N.C. can be interviewed on Friday, July 21st, 2.30 to 4.30 p.m., at 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Candidates must be well educated and hold a certificate of three years' training, which they must bring for inspection. A knowledge of French is an advantage.

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