

Bill for our State Registration goes through which will suppress our personal and professional independence; and as for "leaving Mrs. Bedford Fenwick behind," let the College promoters evolve one idea which is of any value to the Nursing Profession, which has not already been proposed in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING some time during the past quarter of a century. When the promoters of the College come within measurable distance of all we have been working for (and should have achieved but for their most ungenerous opposition) they will still find themselves considerably in the rear.

Yours loyally,  
MEMBER IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

#### A MONUMENTAL RECORD.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was present at the uproarious and historic Meeting in Hanover Square in December, 1897, when what were known as the "New Bye-laws" of the R.B.N.A. were thrust upon us. I voted against them, of course, as they deprived us of several privileges granted in the first Bye-laws when the Charter was granted in 1893, and which made medical government possible in the R.B.N.A. I also attended the, to me, very sad meeting on the 18th January last, which deprived us of our Chartered Association and makes lay control possible. I fear, as I am now an old woman, I shall not live to see the day, when the Nursing Profession in this country, as in America and elsewhere, will be permitted to govern itself. But let us hope the younger generation of nurses may work for it and may live to see this great principle conceded by a more generous generation of men. The history of our struggle for justice and a gallant struggle it has been, is written in the 57 volumes of the NURSING RECORD AND BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING—a monumental record of your life-long devotion to our profession, which should be studied in this country and elsewhere by every Nurse who loves courage, honourable dealing, and justice.

I am,  
Affectionately yours,  
A LIFE MEMBER OF THE R.B.N.A.

#### TEACHING THE YOUNG IDEA.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was very interested in the announcement in last week's JOURNAL that the Head Mistresses of Secondary Schools are concerning themselves with the conditions obtaining in our Nurse-Training Schools, and the standard—or perhaps I should say the lack of uniformity of standard—of nursing education. The more educationists and training school authorities come into touch with one another the better.

At the same time we must bear in mind that, as a rule, girls leave the secondary schools at an age below that at which even a children's hospital would accept them for training, so that the Association of Head Mistresses might usefully direct

the attention of such pupils as appear to have a vocation for nursing to the pursuit of studies which will be of use to them in a nursing career— anatomy and physiology, domestic science, sick-room cookery, and at least one foreign language amongst them. I am very much in favour of a standard entrance examination for the nursing profession, which would lighten the burden of the training schools, whose curriculum might well be relieved of subjects which could be learnt by the pupils before receiving the special instruction which the nurse-training schools only can provide.

Yours faithfully,  
SISTER.

#### WARD NOT A CONSERVATORY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am only a "V.A.D." yet I greatly appreciate your professional journal, and feel sure you will not deny me a corner in which to draw attention to the flower nuisance in military hospital wards. I really do not mind what I do when on duty, but a hospital ward is not a conservatory, and I do grudge so much valuable time being spent on arranging flowers, and washing plants, when so much needs doing for the patients, which is often left undone because of a shortage of nurses. There certainly should be some rule that the display of flowers, which, of course, we all like to see in a ward, should be reasonable, and not need a whole-time V.A.D. to keep them in order.—Yours sincerely,

A WARD GARDENER.

#### REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Sister C. M. (Birmingham).—Address Central Prisoners of War Committee, 4, Thurloe Square, London, S.W. The "Missing and Wounded" Department of the Joint War Committee is carried on at 18, Carlton House Terrace, London, S.W.

Miss S. Agnew (London).—Our advice is to waste no further time, if, as you say you have found your vocation in nursing the sick, arrange to enter a good training school and learn your profession thoroughly. The fact that you are so well educated and know Latin is all to the good. We do not agree with your brother that to enter a hospital for training is "throwing away the money spent on your education." When Nurses' Registration is in force the whole status of the profession will be raised immeasurably. We hope to see a just Act on the Statute Book at an early date.

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

February 17th.—Describe Bed-making, and how to lift and move patients.

February 24th.—Describe how to give a nasal douche, the articles used, and danger to avoid.

#### OUR ADVERTISERS.

Do not omit to buy, as far as possible, everything you need from "Our Advertisers." Their financial support helps us; we must help them, and they are all first-class firms.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)