

tion will not cover the expenses incurred after the first rush. We Registrationists calculated it would not, even worked with the due economy a woman treasurer would have employed.

But what do we find? Already the cost of three offices and officials has been incurred, the expenses of twelve delegates from Scotland and Ireland are to be paid, presumably to the fortnightly meetings of the College Council in London. What will be the cost of these "professional" trips? And will they be debited to the Nurses' Contributions, the Endowment or Benevolent Funds? I am of opinion that as the College of Nursing, Ltd., has thrust itself upon the nursing profession without their consent, any charitable appeal should be made directly in its name, and not for the "Nation's Nurses," as thousands of us are not members of the College and we cannot permit it to speak in our name. You have my heartiest gratitude for placing the feelings and opinions of self-respecting nurses before the British Women's Hospital Committee, who, as Suffragists, appear to have grasped the situation without difficulty.

Yours faithfully,

HENRIETTA HAWKINS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—We are glad that through your representations the scheme for procuring charity money for Nurses has fallen through. Even if the Nurses were willing (and they have not been asked), why should they absorb money at a time like this when every penny is required, not only for the sick, wounded, and disabled soldiers, but to help with the war? It is not the time to raise Colleges, Memorials, or Endowments for anything but war. Nurses have waited so long for a just measure of legislation that they are content to wait a little longer for the right thing. We owe you a debt of gratitude for setting us "straight" with the generous Committee of the British Women's Hospital.

I am, yours faithfully,

A. CARSON RAE.

The Nurses' Hostel,  
Dublin.

[We gratefully acknowledge many letters received in sympathy with our protest.—Ed.]

#### THE PRESS GANG.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The "Press Gang," in regard to influencing trained nurses to join the College, do not only pursue their undesirable tactics in the offices of Sir Henry Burdett's newspapers, they are equally active in our large training schools. In 1915 all the Sisters and Nurses here were warned off "Registration" by the Matron, and told not to associate themselves with a movement so injurious to the Nursing Profession, and given to understand that the Committee were strongly opposed to it. At a neighbouring hospital (both in London) even the Matron herself was ordered not to attend registration and suffrage meetings.

In 1916 there was a complete *volte face* in this hospital—our Matron professes conversion to State Registration and now we are practically ordered to join the Nursing College to support it, and, to make sure of us, our guineas are to be paid out of charitable funds, which in my opinion the Committee has no right to do. If this is not the policy of the "Press Gang" I should like to know what is. Of course, if we refuse to join, that is put down as insubordination, and means no promotion. Many of us strongly object to be treated as if we were children, or fools. Such pressure is absolutely indefensible, and I am glad to know is being brought to the notice of Members of Parliament by independent members of the profession.

Yours truly,

WARD SISTER IN A LONDON HOSPITAL.

#### THE NEED FOR NURSE DIETITIANS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am glad to learn from M.R.S.'s letter in this week's issue of THE JOURNAL that my experience is exceptional. I have worked in three London Hospitals and one provincial; in all four the diet was as I described it in my article. I have only worked in one Hospital since the outbreak of war; there the food was no better and no worse than in the other three.

I know that the Matron of the Hospital in which I was trained tried to get a change of diet for the patients; it was put before the Board and after some discussion the Board came to the conclusion that the patients were changed very often, therefore there was no need to change the diet.

Of course I know fruit is impossible now, but in the pre-war days, when sugar was cheap, stewed fruit would be possible, especially when bought on a large scale. Fruits that are in season can be bought in large quantities at 1d. per lb., and bananas by the crate at 3 for 1d. I have bought them in my house-keeping days, so I know.

Still I am very glad to learn that some Hospital patients are properly fed.

Yours faithfully,  
M. H.

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

##### QUESTIONS.

May 26th.—Describe the abdominal complications of enteric fever, and give an account of the methods of nursing employed in these.

June 2nd.—Explain what is meant by blood pressure.

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