

of the College, "when the Nurses' Registration Bill becomes law you will be recognised by the State without any further fee or formality." It is the prerogative of Parliament to settle under what conditions a nurse may register under a Nurses' Registration Act, and to fix the registration fee. For the rest it is easy to see that Irish promoters of the College of Nursing, Ltd., are incensed because public-spirited Irish nurses are not rising as they would like to the bait of "material benefit." They make large claims but do not substantiate them—witness the most astounding statement made by Miss Matheson in Dub'lin, on Monday evening, if she is correctly reported. "The Irish Branch of the College of Nursing was the first to tackle the nursing problem in this country" (Ireland).—ED.]

THE REPLY OF THE HON. SECRETARY OF THE IRISH NURSING BOARD.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In a letter signed by the Secretary (Irish Branch) of the College of Nursing, Ltd., the writer has gone far astray in trying to bring discredit on the aims and objects of the Irish Nursing Board.

The following are some of the aims of our Irish Board:—

(1) To keep hundreds of Nurses, who are now in practice, independent and self-respecting women and permit them to manage their own affairs and to build up their own Register on entirely professional lines without an appeal to public Charity.

(2) To standardise the Training of Nurses, so that Irish Nurses admitted to its Register may have equal chance with their English sisters of obtaining work in any country.

(3) To improve the education of Nurses while in training.

(4) To place Nurses entirely under the direction of their own Profession.

(5) It aims at granting them a certificate which will be most valuable and carry them all over the world, issued as it will be by a purely Professional Body.

Its Council has been elected, not nominated, and it will look after the interests of Trained Nurses alone, and Nurses in Training. These are a few of the aims and objects of the Irish Nursing Board, but many others are in contemplation and will materialise when there is a strong Register and when Nurses can voice their own wishes.

Let us now consider The College of Nursing, Ltd. This is a limited liability company with Memorandum and Articles of Association subscribed by seven laymen and registered under the Board of Trade. Three of these laymen were Secretaries working in the British Red Cross Office in London, one was Chairman of the conjoint Boards of the British Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Association, two were Barristers-at-law, and one a simple Esquire.

These men nominated the first Council, which framed the Rules for our Profession.

Their nominees do not appear to understand the requirements of a trained Nurse, nor are they even willing to define the words "Trained Nurse." They propose to issue two kinds of Certificates—(1) Certificates of proficiency; (2) Certificates of training and proficiency.

They mix up Trained Nurses with other women workers in Hospitals to whom also they propose to grant Certificates. They have absolutely ignored the existing large Associations of Nurses, which number many thousands. They have appealed on behalf of Nurses to the General Public for Charity, which appeal the self-respecting Nurses bitterly resent.

These are only a few of the objections to the College of Nursing, Ltd., but many other clauses in its memorandum and articles of association are objectionable.

The College of Nursing, Ltd., has guaranteed to obtain State Recognition for its Register; this it has been unable to do. It has made numerous other promises of material benefit which will also take a long time to fulfil. The Irish Nursing Board has made no promise nor guarantee which it cannot carry out.

Irish Nurses, be not downhearted at the unjust criticisms flung at your Board. Go on as you are doing, steadily building up a strong Register. You will find that your Certificate will carry you everywhere and anywhere, and when State Registration comes along, be very sure your Irish Nursing Board will be "Right There."

Yours faithfully,

A. CARSON RAE,

Hon. Sec. Irish Nursing Board.

34, St. Stephen's Green,
Dublin.

OFFICERS' RANK FOR MILITARY NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have been an interested reader of the letters on the above subject recently appearing in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and I must confess to still being quite confused in mind.

If members of the Q.A.I.M.N.S., T.F.N.S., and Australian Army Nursing Service have the status and relative rank of officers, why does not this entitle them to the Military Cross, instead of the Military Medal?

"INTERESTED."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

November 3rd.—Classify causes of vomiting. Of what may vomit consist? How would you nurse a case of haematemesis?

November 10th.—Describe the methods of treatment you have seen used in (1) impetigo, (2) ringworm. What precautions would you take in applying X-ray treatment for the latter?

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