

understood thing, that all members of one society are at least hon. members of the other if their objects are the same. Several nurses would be glad to hear your opinion on this point. The Empire cry is "Close up the ranks and stand firm." This war cry should be adopted by all nurses who have any pride in their profession.

Yours truly,

JENTIE B. N. PATERSON.

2, Windsor Quadrant,  
Kelvinside, Glasgow.

[When we founded the British Nurses' Association in 1887, it was our great hope that through its medium the trained nurses of the United Kingdom, encouraged by their Matrons, would unite and form a strong professional Union for mutual help and protection.

The antagonistic attitude of the Governors of Nurse-Training Schools—and in consequence of many of their matrons to effective co-operation of trained nurses—and their methods of disintegration must remain for ever a blot on the escutcheon of voluntary hospital managers and other employers of nurses. We fear few of these employers regard the question with a greater sense of justice even in these progressive times. But there are signs that the nurses themselves have more moral courage, and that the pall of prejudice which has enveloped the Royal Chartered Corporation for twenty years is about to be lifted.

The Nurses have saved their Royal Charter, and with it the very existence of their Professional Association, from absorption into a lay corporation; and if they are wise they will soon take into very earnest consideration the best means of utilising the very useful powers they possess under the Royal Charter for co-ordinating the various self-governing societies of Trained Nurses. The College of Nursing policy, a fatal one in our opinion, has been ruthless opposition to the existing organisations of nurses. Let the R.B.N.A. adopt a more statesmanlike course, and take counsel how best to encourage the spirit of comradeship, by which the various societies are inspired. Without inspiration, aspiration, and professional *esprit de corps*, freedom of speech and of action, no central organisation can hope to survive. We threw down the gage in defence of these demands to the reactionary managers of the R.B.N.A. in 1898; now after all these years the nurse members of the Association, given a free lance, have entered the lists in support of this policy.

The policy of the Right to Unite.

We support Miss Jentie Paterson's plea that we "close up the ranks and stand firm."—ED.]

#### AN UNPATRIOTIC APPEAL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—As the nurse referred to in the Article in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING last week, headed "The Press Boycott of Nursing Opinion," who was sworn at in the street before the Queen's Hall by a supporter of the British Women's Hospital Committee, I regret to find

the honoured names of their Majesties, Queen Mary and Queen Alexandra, advertised as Patrons of this Committee. May I venture to suggest that the two Queens should make enquiries from the officials of the following Societies of Nurses as to the feelings of their members concerning the charitable appeal for the Nation's Nurses in time of war, as I feel convinced neither of these Royal Ladies would desire to support a policy deeply repugnant to the self-respect of many of the working members of our profession.

The Trained Nurses' Societies from which information can be obtained are The Royal British Nurses' Association, 10, Orchard Street, London, W.; The Matrons' Council, and the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. The National Union of Trained Nurses, 46, Marsham Street, Westminster, W.; The Scottish Nurses' Association, 103, Bath Street, Glasgow; and the Irish Nurses' Association, 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.

On all sides we read appeals for every penny that can be scraped together for the successful prosecution of the war. We cannot walk for more than a few yards in our crowded streets without the heart-stirring spectacle of the permanently disabled, of the young widow with her fatherless children. In the face of these victims of the horrors of this time, can it be seriously argued that the needs of nurses justify the diversion of large sums of money from those who have lost health, prosperity, husband, father, and cherished prospects, nay, even a sufficiency of the ordinary needs of life.

Rise up patriotic nurses, and demand that no further funds shall be collected for your professed benefit during this terrible time of pain and anguish upon the face of the whole earth.

I am, yours faithfully,

HENRIETTA HAWKINS, P.L.G.,

Life Member Royal British Nurses' Association, The Society State Registration Trained Nurses, and the National Council of Trained Nurses.

[Several nurses write an expression of disgust on the "damning" incident. We are not surprised.—ED.]

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

##### QUESTIONS.

December 22nd.—Describe the procedure you would adopt in a case for which general massage has been ordered.

December 29th.—Describe the nursing of a case of ophthalmia neonatorum.

#### OUR ADVERTISERS.

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

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)