

There have been two meetings for the College side, at which representatives of that body could say what they liked and answer or leave unanswered what they wished; there has been one meeting for the R.B.N.A. side, at which the College side was allowed to address the audience and answer questions, and at which the R.B.N.A. was not permitted to answer the questions put to them. It would be of interest if these questions could now appear in the press.

The suppression of free discussion and the breaking of pledges is a sorry start for what might have been a fine career of usefulness for the College of Nursing.

Yours, &c.,

A STUDENT OF CONTEMPORARY  
MANNERS AND MORALS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Sir Francis Bacon says, somewhere in one of his classical essays: "Some books are meant to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested."

I would recommend every nurse, inspired by *esprit de corps*, to "chew and digest"—in other words, read over and over again the article, entitled "Remarks," by a trained Nurse, which appears in the latest issue of the JOURNAL. She will then learn all about the Liverpool meeting and its deep significance. It is not difficult to read the mind of the writer, as she writes into it her own individuality; to wit, her contempt for falsehood and misinterpretation, her righteous indignation at injustice, and her amazement and horror at a solemn pledge unblushingly repudiated from a public platform.

Let us make no mistake about it—the College of Nursing Co., Ltd., as personified on that platform of the Liverpool meeting, has revealed itself in its true colours. Its aim is to gag all those who dare to hold views in opposition to its own, and to capture the Nursing Profession and enslave it. If nurses have any *esprit de corps*, let them give practical proof of it by coming forward and helping in whatever way they can to overthrow this intolerable autocracy—once and for all. The writer of the article asks sorrowfully, "Is there such a thing as British fairplay?" Let us assure her that we mean to *fight till we get it*; and we do not want what Lady Cowdray calls her "help," until she can keep an undertaking made in her name. We beg that she will learn the spirit that is in us, namely this: "*The spirit of liberty is never defeated, whether in chains or in laurels.*"

Yours truly,

ANOTHER NURSE WHO WAS  
PRESENT AT THE LIVERPOOL  
MEETING.

#### NOT A NATIONAL FUND.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—I am one of those who owe a debt of gratitude to nurses, and would willingly subscribe to any fund for their benefit, but I would like to be sure that the fund would benefit those to whom I

am indebted, viz., working nurses, or at least that they should have the right to decide how it should be applied. I would be glad to know more about this Benevolent Fund which has been advertised so widely, as I have grave doubts about it. So far as I understand the matter, this appeal is being addressed to the public on behalf of one organization of nurses, and that the youngest of them all. What right has it to collect a debt due to the general body of nurses to promote its own special schemes? If, as I am told, the College of Nursing is governed by self-appointed personages who have not yet submitted to an election by their own members, what right have they to commit the whole profession to any such appeal? I see it stated that they consist not of working nurses, but of Matrons along with a few gentlemen, of the medical profession mostly. It seems a strange sort of a workers' union which is governed by the employers, and to place a large endowment in the hands of such a body is probably giving them power to reduce the rank and file of nurses to a state of serfdom. I should be glad to subscribe to the fund, provided it is agreed that all the organizations of nurses have an equal voice in determining how it is to be administered. Can this not be arranged?

Yours truly,

C. C. SYME.

Seggie, Milnathort, N.B.

#### WHICH IS THE MOST CLEANLY WAY TO TAKE TEMPERATURES?

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In answer to "Perplexed" in JOURNAL, I think the most correct and cleanly way, when there are a great many temperatures to take, as in a military hospital, is: On a wooden, unpolished tray, place two jars, one with a piece of *sterile wool* in, before putting in the weak solution of carbolic, which should not be strong enough to almost obliterate the index marks, which I have so often seen; the other jar should contain sterile water, and a small container should hold some wee swabs of wool for wiping the thermometers on.

*Method.*—After removal of thermometer from each patient's mouth, it should first be dipped in the carbolic solution, carefully wiped on pledget of wool and then dipped in the sterile water; the wool must be fresh each time, and after use should be burnt—all the pieces used—to avoid any infection from one patient's mouth to another.

Finally, after use, morning and evening, the jars should be thoroughly cleansed and prepared in the same way again. An unpolished tray prevents the jars from slipping when being carried round the wards.

F. S.

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTION.

March 23rd.—What causes Bomb Dermatitis, and how is it treated?

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