

**COMING EVENTS.**

*April 29th.*—Central Midwives' Board for Scotland. Examination qualifying for admission to the Roll of Members. Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, and Aberdeen.

*May 1st.*—Central Midwives' Board for England. Examination. London, Manchester, and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

*May 3rd.*—National Union of Trained Nurses. Annual Council Meeting. 46, Marsham Street, S.W. 2.30 p.m.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.**

*Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

**WE MUST KEEP OUR CHARTER.**

*To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.*

DEAR MADAM,—May I be permitted to appeal to my fellow members in the R.B.N.A. to remain very loyal to their own Royal Chartered Association at this crisis? I am informed on very good authority that because we nurses declined to hand our Charter over to the College of Nursing, that the most determined and unworthy efforts are being made by members of that Company to disintegrate our Association. By preserving our Charter, we have kept power and prestige in our own hands, which is recognised by the College controllers as very dangerous indeed to its scheme of monopoly, and absolute control, of the Nursing Profession, as provided for in its Memorandum and Articles of Association, and craftily inserted in the very dangerous Bill it has drafted. Never was there a crisis in our profession in which courage and solidarity were more necessary.

If the College abstracts our Charter, as it still hopes to do, any professional independence for the nurses of this country will be impossible for years to come.

Yours faithfully,  
HENRIETTA HAWKINS,  
*Life Member, R.B.N.A.*

**A REMARKABLE ANOMALY.**

*To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.*

DEAR MADAM,—Will you allow me a small space in your columns in which to correct a mis-statement made at the Lady Mayoress's Drawing-room Meeting at the Guildhall, Hull, on April 19th, in support of the "Nation's Fund for Nurses"? It was stated at that meeting that "the Nursing Profession was the only skilled profession which was without organisation." It is this statement which I wish to correct.

There are numerous nurses' organizations. One—the oldest—the Royal British Nurses' Association, was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1893. There are also the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, a federation of self-governing nurses' Leagues; the Matrons'

Council; the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, which drafted the first Nurses' Registration Bill in 1904, that passed the House of Lords in 1908; the National Union of Trained Nurses; and the Scottish and the Irish Nurses' Associations, all of which free organisations, with one exception, are grouped in the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, which has drafted the Nurses' Registration Bill, which provides for an independent Governing Body and the organisation of the Nursing Profession on democratic lines.

The fact that many nurses have not realised the necessity for organisation until the incursion of the Red Cross into the ranks of nursing, does not disprove the fact that sound and advanced organisation was there all the time.

It is a remarkable anomaly that these last-mentioned nurses, in order to protect themselves from what they most fear, viz., the temporary organisation of the Red Cross, should wait for the Chairman of the Red Cross to found a College of Nursing, Ltd., under the Companies Act, 1908 and 1913, and the Nation's Fund for Nurses, registered by the London County Council under the War Charities Act, 1916, to finance the same.

In justice to those of the Nation's Nurses who have attached themselves to sound nurses' organisations, I beg you to give publicity to this matter.

I am, Madam,  
CHARLOTTE A. LITTLE,  
*Superintendent of the Hull  
Association of Trained Nurses.*

April 21st, 1918.

**FOR WHICH MANY THANKS.**

*To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.*

DEAR MADAM,—May I, in conjunction with thousands of nurses, offer you my sincere and hearty congratulations on completion of forty years' professional work. God grant you health and strength for many years to guide the barque of our professional life and interests through the present turmoil of unmitigated interference and patronising bunkum.

I should have considered it a privilege to send my BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING to the Princess Victoria Rest Clubs in France. Professional duties hindered my offer sooner. Couldn't you make room for mine yet?

With respectful regards,

Yours very truly,  
A. E. MACDONALD,  
*Sister.*

St. Luke's Hospital (P.N.S.)  
London.

**OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.****QUESTIONS.**

*May 4th.*—What instruction in personal hygiene would you give a school child ten years of age?

*May 11th.*—Name four of the greatest causes of discomfort to a patient after an abdominal operation. How relieve them?

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