

and I shall have pleasure in laying the suggestion before my Executive Committee.

With respect to a common badge showing common effort, the suggestion has been made that the green N.U.T.N. star should be copied in a different colour and lettering by the Federated Societies showing "Unity in Diversity," as Bernard Shaw has it.

Above all, we want a large membership of women who know what they are aiming at and intend to get it by the strength of united purpose, justice and comradeship.

I am, yours faithfully,

E. L. C. EDEN.

AN UNREDEEMED PLEDGE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—What splendid news this last number of the JOURNAL brings! A veritable Christmas card. We who are absent from London owe you a deep debt of gratitude for the splendid way in which the JOURNAL keeps us *au fait* with things which are happening there, and all over the world. After an anxious year and one of much travail for the R.B.N.A. this Christmas finds us again united with one common object in view. The report of the Special General Meeting of the R.B.N.A. makes good reading. What must it have been to be there and see all "College schemes" thrown overboard! Again I thank you for the full report of this meeting. On page 415, under heading "A Definite Pledge," Mr. Paterson remarked that "a member of the College Council stated that nurses must be fools if they thought the College could give this promise." Mr. Paterson added that many nurses must have joined the College on the strength of this promise. Many nurses, I know, have joined for this reason alone, and when I remarked to several that I doubted very much the College's ability to fulfil such a promise, they scouted the idea, saying "the College would not dare go back on such an advertisement." I was unconvinced. In the latter days of 1916, when I was still undecided whether to follow the "Guy's" authorities into the College scheme, I wrote to the office and pointed out the ambiguous ways of the College, then apparent, from differences between advertisements and articles of association. The only answer I got from anyone interested was to this effect: "No one would act towards nurses in the rather dreadful way you suggest, at least no one who would be on the College Council." "Then why embody their power so to act in Articles of Association?" I asked, and was left asking. After reading the report of the R.B.N.A. meeting, I wonder how the College Matrons feel who sent the quoted circular to their nurses, advising them to join at once and be first in the field when the Bill passed!

Let nurses take warning in time. "A straw shows how the wind blows." The College Company is like Germany: its pledges are only scraps of paper. It has not fulfilled its promise

No. 1, for which it has taken money. Few nurses have had law or business training, and we are busy women, but let the College beware. We are not all fools, and if some were fooled once, it would be dangerous to try the game a second time. Every act of the College proves it cares nothing for nurses' interests nor good name, and by its latest act, "The Appeal for the Nation's Nurses," it has permitted a Committee of actresses to beg charity in our name, thus degrading the whole profession. If the public had been permitted to know the real object of the money, I doubt if they would have subscribed a penny; but they have been kept in the dark by a subsidised press.

Yours truly,

JENTIE B. N. PATERSON.

Glasgow.

[We regret this letter has been held over for want of space.—ED.]

POSSIBLE CONCESSIONS TO V.A.D.s.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I think you overrate the power of the Matrons who met in "Secret session" recently to decide the fate of V.A.D.s. The truth is the admittance of these quick change artists for short terms of "training" in our general hospitals and in many infirmaries has been compulsory. The Governors and Guardians, mostly men "who think no'wt of women-folk" (as they say in these parts), in so far as their professional status and rights are concerned, have agreed to admit V.A.D.s, in many cases charging a fee, and the Matrons have had to take them whether they thought it right to do so or not. It will be the same after the war. Social influence will be put in force, and V.A.D.s will be granted concessions in spite of the Matrons. Where, as at the London Hospital, the Matron governs, the question of hard cash will decide the question. That institution has always undersold our three years' standard of training, and will continue to do so as long as it pays those at the top. We Barts women have not yet forgotten the cruel betrayal of our Nursing School seven years ago, nor have we failed to realise that since that date the women trained there have not got one leading position in the Nursing World. We are simply out of the running. Thomas', London, Guy's—their pupils get promotion, but "Barts," no; and in your day, Madam, we swept the Board.

Yours ever,

A MEMBER OF BARTS LEAGUE.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

January 12th.—How would you irrigate a bowel for colitis?

January 19th.—Describe the apparatus required and method employed for (a) Washing out the stomach. (b) Washing out the bladder.

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