

been your indispensable assistant. A big thank-you I give you all; and with apologies to Browning I paraphrase his immortal words: "These Britons are in the Nursing Profession, all's well with the Profession."

Yours most truly,
BEATRICE KENT.

OUR BART'S CERTIFICATE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM—I was greatly interested in the correspondence *re* our Bart's Certificate. For the time being Bart's nurses apparently are not to be compelled to join the College whether they approve it or not. But I am told the committees of other big hospitals are using coercion in this matter. I think a list of nursing schools should be printed where the committees intend to compel their nurses to join this Company, so that women who object to tyranny can avoid placing themselves under the control of such illiberal committees. This would be a good bit of work for the Nurses' Protection League!

Yours sincerely,
A MEMBER OF THE LEAGUE OF ST.
BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL NURSES.

LEICESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY NURSES' LEAGUE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—As one or two letters have been written about the attitude of the above League towards the S.S.R.N. and the College of Nursing, I think my silence may be misunderstood, so ask you to give me a little space in your paper. The League has always been in favour of State Registration, has a seat on the Executive Committee of the S.S.R.N., and has worked for the Society's Bill, which was for many years the only Bill before Parliament; but now the College of Nursing has brought forward another Bill, so that the situation is changed, and some members continue to support the Society's Bill, and others support the College Bill. I think the members must be allowed freedom of choice, and as long as I am President (and I only remain in office by the consent of the members) I shall oppose any attempt made by either side to force the opposition to withdraw from the League; for there is nothing in the constitution which makes it impossible or inexpedient for either side to retain their membership.

Having said this, I wish to make it perfectly clear that I am in favour of, and should work for, the Society's Bill, because I believe its policy to be sounder than that of the College, mainly for three reasons; the College has not (so far) given any guarantee that three years' *hospital* training shall be a necessary qualification for registration, nor does it guarantee a "one portal" system of examination, neither does it accord to the organised Nurses' Societies the right to elect representatives on to the Council and to fill vacancies as they occur. All this has been stated over and over again; but I would beg trained nurses carefully to

study the subject for themselves; for, if they are content to let other people do all the thinking for them, they can hardly expect to be given the share in the management of their own affairs which they undoubtedly ought to have.

Meanwhile I still hope to live long enough to see an "agreed Bill" presented for the sanction of Parliament.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
G. A. ROGERS,

President, Leicester Royal Infirmary Nurses' League.

[The chief objection to the College Bill is that it incorporates the College of Nursing, Ltd., and retains the autocratic, unrepresentative lay Company Constitution, practically in absolute power over the Nursing Profession; and whilst securing representation to every class of employer it does not make it secure that one nurse shall be elected on to their own Governing Body! We need not criticise any further than that. The Bill, supported by the Society for the State Registration for Nurses provides for an *independent* Governing Body—with provision for the direct representation of the registered nurses themselves, both on the Provisional Council to frame the Rules, and on all subsequent Councils. The truth is that the majority of nurses who support the College of Nursing know nothing of its Constitution, nor the danger to their economic status and personal independence which is craftily inserted in its Draft Bill. There is no chance of an "agreed" Bill until the College Council agrees to just and progressive legislation for the profession *as a whole*, and ceases to attempt to thrust upon us a Bill in its own interest.—ED.]

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mother of Sons.—The leaflet which we mentioned a few weeks ago, "The American Army and Navy and Venereal Disease," should be in the hands of every young soldier. It is issued by the White Cross League, 7, Dean's Yard, Westminster, London, S.W. You cannot do better than get a supply to circulate amongst war workers of both sexes.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

May 25th.—Give the symptoms and treatment of acute gastro-enteritis in a child of one year. Detail the preparation of the diet during all stages of the illness.

June 1st.—How can nurses assist in the development of "a health conscience" in the general public? On what special points may emphasis be laid?

June 8th.—What are the most important things to observe (a) in bringing up a child from birth till it is a year old, (b) from a year to five years old?

June 15th.—What steps would you take if you came in contact with a case of infectious disease as a district nurse—(1) for the welfare of the patient, (2) to prevent the spread of infection?

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