

How about Pocket Boroughs and the sanctity of the ballot!

We nurses all know that a Matron who does not see eye to eye with her Committee does not long retain her post; therein lies the secret of the presence of many of the Matrons as members of the College of Nursing Company, and that is the reason many independent nurses realise that the status of the profession is not safe in their hands. How many Matrons of the most important and lucrative positions in the Nursing world are going to stand out against expediency when advocated by their Committees? Echo answers, "How many?" Presumably the whole contingent of 22 have given us away on the vital question of Supplemental Registers, and other dangerous items of legislation.

I am, &c.,  
J. B. N. PATERSON  
(Late Sister of Guy's Hospital).

#### HOW NURSES ARE CONFUSED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I see from your paper, which I now take regularly, that one of the nurses has got into trouble with the College. I am afraid many of us and the public are very puzzled over the multitudinous schemes and funds of the College and the Red Cross Society. I heard from a commandant lately that the organiser of the Nurses' Fund "Victory" Ball, in London, has asked for surplus money subscribed for her hospital when it closes; she very wisely decided that the local surplus money should be spent on local nursing objects. I hear that Red Cross working parties are asked to give surplus garments to a sale for the Nurses' Fund; and I saw the Red Cross—a symbol our soldiers held sacred throughout the war—used to advertise the "Victory" Ball, which had nothing to do with the Red Cross. If Sir A. Stanley (Chairman of the Red Cross Society and Guardian of the Sanctity of the Emblem) can allow such laxity—a mild term—he and his Company need not shoulder legal cudgels, if the nurses are misled by their actions. Again, I have just received a copy of the Registration of the Nation's Fund for Nurses, under the Charity Act, "To provide Endowment and Benevolent Funds for the College of Nursing, Ltd." Yet Sir A. Stanley states the Benevolent Fund is for all nurses. The rules and regulations of the College are more difficult to master than the English grammar, with its fifty rules and 130 exceptions; and I fear the whole is so arranged to subjugate and catch nurses. I am a canny Scot, who still has her guinea ready to go towards the *State Register*. A CANNY SCOT.

#### FAITHFUL PIONEERS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—I must express my delight upon reading that you have been elected on to the Executive Committee of the Ministry of Health Watching Council. It is good to know that the inauguration of a Ministry which is bound to control the most important Nursing

Service in the near future, will be watched by faithful pioneers of nursing reform.

Yours sincerely,

THERESA MCGRAH.

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Moss Side, Manchester.

#### KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Country Matron: "I joined the College because other nurses in this district have done so; but have little time to look into things. I thought as so many London Hospital Matrons were on the Council they would see to things being right; but I am very disturbed about these Supplemental Registers. I agree with you that these registers will confuse the public mind, and do away with any use of a General Register for thoroughly trained nurses."

[We advise our correspondent to send her protest to the Council of the College, and if this breach of faith with general trained nurses is persisted in, by Sir Arthur Stanley and his unwise advisers, to resign membership of the College, and give support to the Central Committee's Bill, which stands for the one portal after a uniform examination.—ED.]

"An Irish Nurse" writes: "We have to thank the amateur war nurses for one thing—they and their friends have realised that nursing is not merely a question of looking fascinating in uniform, smoothing the fevered brow, and smiling sweetly, but that it is the most laborious, exacting calling both physically and mentally a woman can undertake. Poor pay and food and long hours soon wipe off that smile. How we mere "working nurses" have stood it all these years God knows, and it is to be hoped that the hospital officials who are mainly responsible for this overwork, are not going to be given power through a Registration Bill to continue their unrestricted authority over us."

"E. E. P." writes:—"I have often wondered in hospital why 'washing up' is not taught and supervised: one sees such horrors committed with dirty water and dirty towels. I have shown many maids how to cleanse crockery and silver before washing, like we do the surgical instruments, but I generally get called 'faddy.' I have only met one ward-maid who washed up properly, and rinsed her cloths after, ready for next time. I have seen even in isolation work, unspeakable water used, and it is quite inexcusable in hospitals where there is always plenty of water. No wonder diseases are not stamped out; people in these days will not take the extra trouble to do things properly."

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

##### QUESTIONS

February 22nd.—Give your most interesting experiences on active service.

March 1st.—Have you ever seen a ghost? If so, give your experience accurately, or repeat the experience of others upon whose accuracy you can rely.

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