

It is hard to give up hope of meeting our beloved in another life, but, after all, that we loved was the Personality which sprang from the blending of a soul with a body; the attainment of the soul.

I prefer to regard the dead as living memories. Instead of a bitter parting for ever, I retain a constant memory of a finished personality, the attainment of a lifetime, which is ever within call and still has power to influence my life.

This, I consider, much more precious than an uncertain longing for intercourse of a doubtful nature beyond the grave.

Yours faithfully,

Theresa McGrath.

Lloyd Street South,  
Manchester.

#### THE STATUS OF IRISH NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have read with great interest the letters by Miss Carson-Rae and the Hon. Albinia Brodrick on the above question. The truth is, the Irish nurses have been in constant turmoil ever since the College Company sent delegates from London to dictate to us concerning our own affairs, of which they knew nothing, and insisted upon dumping down a branch in Dublin, controlled by ladies not engaged in nursing, who in times past had been trained at St. Thomas's Hospital, London. This proceeding has been, as you prophesied at the time, a veritable apple of discord in Ireland; these ladies have, after swearing "anti" for years, now become ardently "registrationist," but only on their own, the employers' terms. They have tried to place their Saxon hoof upon us, and in self-defence, we Irish of the Irish see nothing but to protect ourselves by forming a trades-union, which we have a perfect right to do. Without other ardent spirits in our wake we shall be downed entirely. We have worked and petitioned for legal status for years and politicians have just winked the other eye. We have got to make ourselves heard if ever we are to rise out of this bottomless pit of overwork and poor pay. One thing we are beginning to realise, much as we sympathise with our suffering fellow-creatures, it is not our business as poor working women to pay for our betters to luxuriate in vicarious charity, for which they see no necessity to pay either in cash or labour. If Irish hospital governors cannot get the money to carry on the work without sweating nurses, and often ruining our health, then let them make the Government pay. Surely now we shall soon have a National Health Ministry, and it will be their duty to provide for the skilled care of sick people who cannot pay for themselves.

I was glad to note in the B.J.N., the "London Hospital" nurses are, at last, daring to whisper the word justice. It is a pity they have not the courage to go straight to that nice-looking Matron you showed us last week, and say:—"See here, you just make it quite plain to those potentates

pow-wow-ing in the Board-room that if they do not get a move on after forty years we are for walking in." The roof would not fall, anyway.

I haven't the pleasure of your acquaintance, Editor dear, but I feel in my bones you are a real friend and that you understand Celtic psychology.

"A BIDDY OUT OF THE WEST."

#### NURSES OBJECT TO CHARITY.

##### KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

From a Sister on Foreign Service:—"No, I have not joined the College of Nursing. Apart from every other consideration, its methods of 'touting' (one cannot call it anything else) disgust one.

"Surely our profession should be above such methods as that—it's so vulgar, to say the least of it.

"I cannot say one approves these Victory Balls either.

"Far better pay the Nursing Profession a higher salary, one out of which they can provide for their old age.

"That there will always be a few who, from illness or other reasons, will need help we know, but if we, as a whole, were better paid, we could support our own Benevolent Fund and not come on public charity. It is degrading."

Manchester Nurse: "'You can't look a gift-horse in the mouth.' Therefore, if the nurses in this country are content to be pauperised by the Nation's Fund for Nurses' and the College it intends to set up to govern them, they have no right to complain of its constitution or anything else. Just shut eyes, open mouths, and swallow what Lady Cowdray and her ladies of the drama, Sir Cooper Perry and his fellow hospital officials choose to pop into their mouths. The whole proposal to buy us up *en bloc* is an outrage."

[Some of us are not for sale.—ED.]

#### NOTICE.

We regret we have had to hold over a most interesting letter from Miss Mena Bieiby in reply to Miss McGrath, and many other communications. We need a B.J.N. double the size.—ED.

Time is so valuable that the Editor begs those sending papers to mark "pars" which require notice. She often hunts in vain.

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

March 29th.—Describe how to organize, and the daily routine of, a special Sanatorium for Nurses suffering from tuberculosis.

April 5th.—State some causes of Insomnia. How would you relieve it?

April 12th.—How would you improve the care and observation of the parturient woman?

April 19th.—What new inventions have you seen in use during the War?

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