

to the investigation of psychic phenomena. May I point out, for the benefit of nurses who desire enlightenment, that the "Borderland Library," founded by the late Mr. W. T. Stead, will give them access to this literature. Those who are able to purchase cheap books will find Stead's "Real Ghost Stories" and "After Death" a good beginning.

The particular phenomenon Miss McGrath describes is common, and a full explanation of it is given in Leadbeater's book, "The Other Side of Death."

The teaching of experts is that psychic power is inborn. If it is not, it cannot be acquired. Imagination and an active brain-mind generally is inimical to the development of psychic faculty, which is a thing quite apart from intellect. It may be found in persons of all grades of character.

There is conclusive evidence that terrifying apparitions do sometimes appear to pure souls. For this reason it is advisable that all who are clairvoyant should be acquainted with the formula of dismissal to disturbing spirits.

The cause of "inclination" is fully explained by sidereal philosophy.

Medical men and nurses would be enriched for their work by a serious study of the occult sciences. In practice, a knowledge of these is equivalent to another, and finer, pair of eyes and ears, and it deepens and widens the understanding of human nature as no other study can do. It also enables one to realise the glorious future that awaits us on the "Other Side." I write as one who has made a daily study of occultism for over fifteen years.

I am, yours faithfully,

MÉNA M. G. BIELBY.

NO BLANK CHEQUES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I hear that the statement is now being circulated that the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses has not succeeded in getting its Nurses' Registration Bill passed, not because the principle is wrong, but because its methods are wrong. That is a very common cry, but against that we have various resolutions of the "antis" declaring that the State Registration of Nurses is "inexpedient in principle, injurious to the best interests of nurses and of doubtful public benefit," and the Central Hospital Council for London presented a resolution to the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Nurses Registration stating "that this Council is opposed to any State Registration of Nurses and that steps be taken on behalf of the Council to oppose any Bill in Parliament having such registration for its object."

The truth is, the whole Registration fight centres round the composition of the General Nursing Council. If those who are fighting for the right of the nurses to a fair share of self-government had been willing to sacrifice their interests in that respect, they might have got a Bill through at almost any time in the last quarter of a century. The methods of the College of Nursing, Ltd., in

dealing with this question are characteristic. First, they left a blank space in their Nurses Registration Bill, where the composition of the General Nursing Council should be defined, and then, when under pressure, they inserted the bodies they proposed should be represented, they omitted the numbers of the representatives, thus claiming a "blank cheque" in this respect. Why do they not openly and honourably state what they intend, and set out in black and white the composition of the Council they propose in their Bill? Frankly, plain people like myself and many others detest their policy and distrust their slim methods. We want their proposals in writing, in their Bill, then we shall know what we have to deal with. Blank spaces and blank cheques will not do for us, though they may for the credulous people who sign away their liberties without so much as reading the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the College to which they undertake to subscribe.

Yours faithfully,

A LIFELONG REGISTRATIONIST.

[The rapid progress of the Nurses' Registration Bill will, we hope, soon effect just conditions for all nurses—ED]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

From a sheaf of letters:—"28th March—what a red letter day!" "Thought I was doomed to depart in peace before State Registration was in force." "Too glorious for words." "As we could not be in the House, we went to Church and prayed." "We don't know how to Jazz, but we skipped with joy." "Cannot believe it—seems too good to be true." "We owe it all to you." "If it had not been for B.J.N. we should have gone under long ago." "Thousands will register, no fear." "Hope the pioneers will help to found the profession on just lines," &c.

A Friend: "We were all delighted at the success of the Bill and send hearty good wishes and congratulations. I am sending you a large home-made cake in honour of the occasion. It has taken quite a time to collect the fruit for it."

[A most delicious cake, especially the almond icing. Many thanks.—ED.]

Miss A. M. Hanning: "It is a matter of great rejoicing for us that our Bill has passed its Second Reading so well commended, and we have a great future before us. I am sure all the nurses must be waiting thrillingly for the turn of events. I do envy the lucky few who were able to be present in the House last Friday."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

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

April 26th.—How would you care for beds, bedding, blankets, rubber sheeting and ward linen, to keep them economically hygienic when in hospital use?

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