

STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—A very erroneous statement appeared in Tuesday's issue of the *Evening Standard* in an account of an interview with the Secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd. The statement is to the effect that the amendment to the Bill, which will make it possible to admit untrained nurses on to the Register during the period of grace, is "Mrs. Fenwick's amendment." This is, of course, absolutely incorrect. The amendment alluded to was drafted by the Local Government Board and runs: "produces evidence satisfactory to the Council of having been for the last three years in *bona fide* practice as a nurse in attendance on the sick, and as to the conditions under which she was so engaged."

The corresponding clause in the Bill promoted by the Central Committee, of which Mrs. Fenwick is Hon. Nurse Secretary, ran, until amended in Standing Committee, as follows:—

"produces evidence satisfactory to the Council of training prescribed by the rules formed under the provisions of the Act, and has, in addition, been for at least three years in *bona fide* practice as a nurse."

The clause in the Bill promoted by the College on the other hand, omits all reference to training and runs:—

"Such person is at least 21 years of age, and is of a good character, and is qualified for registration under such conditions as may be prescribed by the rules under the Act."

There are three facts, therefore, to note:—

(1) The Bill promoted by the Central Committee, of which Mrs. Fenwick is Hon. Nurse Secretary, is the only one that provided for qualifications of training during the period of grace.

(2) Once the Bill is in Parliament any Member of Parliament, and only Members of Parliament, may propose an amendment, and the promoters of the Bill are not, therefore, necessarily responsible for the course it will take. The amendment alluded to was not "proposed by Mrs. Fenwick," but by Sir Kingsley Wood.

(3) The College itself omits any reference to the necessity of training in its own Bill, and, therefore, itself deserves the criticism of its own Secretary.

Further comment is, I think, unnecessary.

Yours faithfully,

E. L. C. EDEN.

National Union of Trained Nurses,
46, Marsham Street, S.W.

THE LATEST!

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have just seen the book displayed at Selfridge's, which is issued by the Committee of the Nation's Fund for "the Poor Nurses." As an Army Sister, I consider that the pictorial cover is an affront to the Imperial Military Nursing Service, and bound to make an impression on the public derogatory to the dignity of the individual members of the Service.

For Lady Cowdray's information, I should like to say that we treat our patients with kindness, but never with the familiarity depicted on her latest publication. I presume the picture has the approval of the Army Matrons on the College Council. We consider they should protect their nurses from such insults.

I am, yours faithfully,

SISTER Q.A.I.M.N.S. (R.)

[The pictorial cover of this book, "Cheerio! Nurse," is the quintessence of vulgarity and misrepresentation. Here we see depicted a hilarious Sister in the uniform of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve arm in arm with "Tommie" and "Jack," evidently off on a "jolly old beano." It will certainly lower the dignity of the profession in the opinion of the public. We hope Army Sisters and nurses will express their opinion on this latest outrage to Lady Cowdray, Dame Whitty, Miss Fay Compton and other members of the Committee responsible for it.—Ed.]

We regret we are compelled to hold over letters from "A Life-long Registrationist," and Miss J. B. N. Paterson in reply to that of "A Member of the College of Nursing, Ltd."—Ed.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Municipal Nurse: "I hope you will give a full report of the legal proceedings when the College of Nursing, Ltd., v. Theresa McGrath comes on. Medical men have found it necessary to have Defence Unions. With so much close co-operation between the higher hospital officials, the rank and file of nurses will certainly have to follow suit. The poorer we are, the more protection we need."

[Miss McGrath as a member of the National Union of Trained Nurses, will be provided with first-class legal advice.—Ed.]

East-End Nurse: "A nurse I know was sent out by her Matron to sell flags on 'Nurses' Day,' although she had been on night duty, and had to return to it, after being soaked through. But as all the officials are 'College,' she just had to submit to it. They tried to hustle us out from the Hostel where we reside, but we would not go. I do hope we get a General Nursing Council which will protect us from this detestable patronage."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

May 24th.—What is the duty of a private nurse who has been exposed to the infection of (1) scarlet fever, (2) diphtheria, (3) mumps before proceeding to another case?

May 31st.—What advice would you give, as a midwife, to a patient in danger of losing her flow of milk? Supposing that she is unable to feed her infant, what alternative feeding would you suggest?

NOTICE.

Please read the inside cover of Page 11, and support the Protest by attending the Meeting.

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