

studies in the long list of eminent scholars and scientists who, from Newton and Kepler to Dr. Richard Garnett, considered them profitable.

Yours faithfully,

MENA M. G. BIELBY.

Cranford, Middlesex.

ASSOCIATION OF HOSPITAL MATRONS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—Our attention has been drawn to a paragraph appearing in this week's issue of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, headed "Imitation is the Sincerest Form of Flattery."

We write to inform you that the statement made therein, namely, that the Constitution of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland was used as a basis for that of the Association of Hospital Matrons, is incorrect, and it is to be regretted that this should not have been verified before publication.

We now state, for your information, that though many members of this newly formed Association were doubtless at some period connected with the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, the Constitution of that Society was neither considered, mentioned, nor in the possession of any member of the Committee dealing with this subject.

The inaccuracy of this statement is of little importance to us, and our only reason for requesting you to correct it is lest, by our silence, we appear ungrateful to the President of the Scottish Matrons' Association, whose kind assistance in drafting the Constitution of the Association of Hospital Matrons we have already most gratefully acknowledged.

We note in the concluding paragraph the recommendation that membership with the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland should have been sought rather than the formation of another Association with kindred aims.

We, on our part, deeply regret the need for this action, adding only, that had the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland fulfilled the ideals of its great Founder, there would have been no necessity to call into existence at this moment a truly representative body, able for that reason to take action on behalf of their profession at this crisis in its history.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Nursing Press.

We are, Madam,

Yours truly,

A. LLOYD STILL, President.

R. COX-DAVIES, Hon. Secretary.

[The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, founded in 1894, drafted and adopted the following amongst its objects:—

1. To enable Members to take counsel together upon matters affecting their profession.
2. To consider and, if necessary, to take action upon legislative proposals calculated to affect the interests of Trained Nurses.

3. To uphold the honour and further the interests of the Nursing Profession.

The Association of Hospital Matrons, founded on May 5th, 1919, at St. Thomas's Hospital, adopted the following objects:—

1. To enable Members to take counsel together on matters affecting their profession.
2. To consider and, if necessary, take action upon legislative proposals calculated to affect the interests of the Nursing Profession.
3. To maintain the honour and further the interests of the Nursing Profession.

We are not in the habit of publishing unverified information, and our article "Imitation is the Sincerest form of Flattery" in last week's issue was written with these facts before us.

The Scottish Matrons' Association was formally constituted on March 3rd, 1910, and for that Association also the Constitution of the Matrons' Council apparently provided a useful precedent. The grateful acknowledgments of the Association of Hospital Matrons are, therefore, due primarily and principally to the Council which conceived and drafted the original Constitution.

We repeat the irrefutable statement that, word for word, the Association of Hospital Matrons has adopted three clauses of the Constitution of the Matrons' Council, and is adding insult to injury in attempting to deny it.

We can only hope [that, having so largely plagiarised the Matrons' Council Constitution, the members of the new Association will either revise its phraseology, or cease to talk about professional ideals and honour. If they in the next quarter of a century accomplish one-half for the benefit of the nursing profession that their courageous colleagues in the Matrons' Council have already done, they will have to be inspired by a greater creative faculty and a very different spirit to that evinced in the letter addressed to this Journal by their officials.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Private Nurse: "I attended the Nurses' Fête at Devonshire House, and gathered the sellers were very dissatisfied with the arrangements and result, and that many beautiful articles had to be packed up for sale on a future occasion.

"Flag-sellers in the streets were very scarce, and those I spoke to were surprised to find trained nurses objected strongly to being treated as paupers. I took occasion to explain our objections with which many ladies sympathised. Others, however, were very rude, and plainly told me we ought to be very grateful for all the trouble taken upon our behalf (by our betters). What enraged me was to see V.A.D.s smirking and begging pence from the man in the street for us."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

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?

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