

Committee of the Nation's Fund for Nurses, and her opinion that it is an affront to the Nurses of the Q.A.I.M.N.S. Many will agree with her, and also deplore the fact that justification for such affront is not wanting. It is quite possible that the Committee in question have heard of a recent episode in a suburban group of Army hospitals, where the Matron, a Regular, and recently decorated with the R.R.C. of First Class, appeared in the wards, dressed in scarlet tights in the character of Mephistopheles, joining in the Christmas festivities, games, dancing, &c., supported by her Assistant Matron in men's clothes as a "chimney sweep," and Home Sister as Dick Whittington, also in tights, the evening terminating at midnight with Three Cheers for "The Devil of a Matron."

Comment is superfluous; it is only in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING that expressions of opinion are possible from nurses on the conduct of their Matrons.

I am, yours faithfully,

Q. A. RESERVE.

[Our correspondent who witnessed this most disgraceful exhibition informs us that others who did likewise sent an account of it to other journals, which have suppressed it.—Ed.]

IMITATION THE SINCEREST FORM OF FLATTERY.

We have received another evasive communication from the President and Hon. Secretary of the "Association of Hospital Matrons," but as they do not honourably acknowledge their indebtedness to the Matrons' Council for adopting its objects, which have been in print for twenty-five years, or apologise to the editor of this Journal for accusing her of making an "inaccurate statement" when she proved that they had done so, we must decline further discussion on the matter with ladies whose standard of professional rectitude is apparently a negligible quantity. Lacking a nice sense of veracity, the officials of the new Association will no doubt continue to pose as the originators of a scheme of organisation to which they have not contributed one idea worth a row of pins.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Member Matrons' Council:—"I am told by a friend who was invited to St. Thomas's Hospital to form the new Association of Matrons, that they were not informed that they were adopting word for word the objects of the Matrons' Council. Moreover, she overheard it said 'the Matrons' Council was no good as it was all one with the Nurses,' and the Matrons must protect themselves in these days of free lance nurses' societies.

[The Matrons are quite right to have Associations of their own to discuss questions which come specially within their own province, and professional affairs generally. In Ireland and Scotland the members of such organisations find profit and pleasure in such Associations. The splenetic attack, however, of the College Matrons on their colleagues associated in the Matrons'

Council, with which they bombarded the Houses of Lords and Commons was quite inexcusable, and to proceed to adopt its objects as their own, without the courtesy of acknowledgement quite inexplicable. Surely the combined genius of eighty heads of hospitals might have drafted an original scheme, or, at least, disguised their paucity of ideas in new phraseology.—ED.]

Always a State Registrationist: "I note that the Press are being misinformed on many aspects of the Nurses' Registration controversy. It is not a split between two bodies of nurses as such, but the two contending parties consist of those who support the nurses in their demand for an independent Nursing Council and reasonable direct representation on it of nurses elected by nurses, and those led by the old anti-registrationists, who support the incorporation of the College Company by Act of Parliament, thereby giving it the monopoly of control over the whole nursing profession, and whose Bill does not secure one seat for the nurses on their own Governing Body. The nurses who support the latter policy are either duped or blacklegs."

Scottish Nurse: "I have attended meetings in Glasgow of late which show a most deplorable breach in professional ranks between the 'free' nurses and the Collegites. What a pity the Matrons are ranged on the side of lay Governors against the rank and file, for that is the pith of the position. We, of course, are furious at the College Council in London attempting to wreck our Bill and substitute its own tyrannical measure. Why should not Scottish and Irish Nurses have their own Acts, as the midwives have, if this Guy's scheme is thrust upon us? We Scottish nurses, who are not led by the nose, don't want to be governed by London Hospital officials any more than the Irish nurses do."

NOTICE.

The Memorandum on the College of Nursing, Ltd., Bill, addressed to the members of the House of Lords by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, can be obtained, price 2d., from the office of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 43T, Oxford Street, London, W. 1.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

June 7th.—What is cystitis? How does it arise? How would you recognize it? What are the principal nursing points?

June 14th.—How would you prepare a child for operation, more especially in regard to diet?

We regret that none of the papers received this week, were of sufficient merit to justify the award of a prize.

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