

the course of our Bill next Friday seem to be under the guidance of Manchester M.P.s, let me assure you that the independent nurses in Manchester are watching them.

These gentlemen have been provided with a clear statement of our point of view, and we must now judge from their speeches whether they decide to help nurses to improve their status, or employers to fatten on our advertised indigence. Some of us learnt the rudiments of Election Policy long ago, and we mean to "dabble" in politics at the next election if it will save *workers* from having representatives who can only see the employers' point of view.

I was much amused at a meeting of the College of Nursing, Ltd., last Thursday, which they called a "conference," but which was apparently a "Special Reading of Antiquated Ideas by Comfortable-looking Matrons on the Beauty of Self Sacrifice in Others." What impressed me most was a note of fear evident in the sermon-like dictations of one Matron, who endeavoured to make a bogey of Trade Unionism, which, however, she considered "impossible" for nurses. It may be amongst hospital nurses whilst they have no more spirit than to do exactly what Matrons tell them *in matters outside the range of their jurisdiction*, but Public Health Nurses in Manchester have enfranchised themselves, and if the College of Nursing, Ltd., tries to meddle with their affairs, they will find that these nurses at least will not need to seek Trade Unionism. *They are right there now.* M.P.s please note.

Yours faithfully,

ONE OF THE BOGEYS.

#### PSYCHIC PHENOMENA.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am sorry Miss Macdonald evades my question in her reply. Trained nurses cannot well ignore a study which over a hundred thousand students in the British Isles claim as an uplifting force in their lives. Miss Macdonald's letter is merely a statement of all that is comprehended in my use of the word evolution. I protest against the suggestion that investigation of psychic phenomena may induce pessimism. On the contrary, it leads to a belief in evolution, than which nothing could be more optimistic. Is it pessimistic to obey the injunction to set our affections on things above, not on things of the earth?

In "Blinds Down" Mr. Vachell has worked out this idea of one's experiences being limited by one's mental attitude to certain phases of life. *Verb. sap.*

Many years in hospital, as in conventual life, tend to a narrow outlook. It is a case of being unable to see the wood for the trees. Also they render one liable to forget that "the devil is sick the devil a saint would be; the devil is well the devil a saint is he!" How do we live, not how do we die is the thing that matters.

Yours faithfully,

M. M. G. BIELBY.

Cranford, Middlesex.

#### KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Nursing Service Reserve writes: "Miss F. Tennyson Jesse, who was sent to France by the Ministry of Information last year to write an account of the war work done by women, exhibits the extraordinary jealousy of the trained nurse usually shown by the untrained woman of her sister expert, in her book about France. But as we have been depreciated in every way by the War Office and the Red Cross, we must not be surprised at the globe-trotting journalist having a shy at us. If nursing is the Cinderella of professions, trained nurses are certainly the Aunt Sally of the war! All the cream has been skimmed off our milk by the Heaven-born society ruler, to whom our Matrons and not a few medicos have kow-towed greatly to our detriment."

Co-op. Nurse: "We read with delight the 'True Tale with a Moral' about Nurses' Registration in the Lords. The wife of 'Aloysius' is known to us all, but luckily the Aloysiuses in whose houses I have worked do not appear to consult their 'consorts' about politics. Our danger as working women is the prejudiced block of hospital managers in the Upper House, especially hospital 'bosses' like the Treasurers of 'Guys' and 'Bart's,' to say nothing of that arch-anti Lord Knutsford! When you realise, which no outsider can do, the Olympian attitude of 'His Lordship the Treasurer' in relation to the poor little penniless drudge of a 'Pro'—scrubbing away on mother earth—you can imagine how likely the 'gods' are to grant immortality to these insects; for that is how I felt in the House of Lords when I ventured to address our Chairman and ask him to vote for the rejection of the College Bill, and he *squinted down his nose at me!*"

[We witnessed the scene and greatly admired the pertinacity of this courageous little woman.—ED.]

#### REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENCE.

Mrs. C. T., Guildford.—We cannot recommend the Training School you mention. The B.J.N. is prohibited by the Matron, and not supplied along with the quack nursing journals in the Nurses' sitting-room. Thus the nursing staff are treated like children as to what they may and may not read, and we imagine the whole organisation of the institution must be more suited to idiots than to grown-up wage-earning women. Where liberty of action in such a matter is prevented by a Matron she proves herself quite unsuited for a public position, and we have advised that the question be raised at the next annual meeting.

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

##### QUESTIONS.

June 28th.—Describe the nursing of a case after the removal of adenoma.

July 5th.—What would you get ready for a surgeon who wished to make a vaginal examination? How would you prepare the patient?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)