

unprofessional management and danger to the freedom of trained nurses. I have got two friends to discontinue paying for the lay nursing papers this week. Let every nurse who realises their danger to economic independence do likewise.

Yours truly,

A MEMBER BART.'S LEAGUE.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Poor Law Nurse.—"May I beg the favour of your advice? There has been a recent Army Order issued (copy enclosed) to the effect that a bonus should be paid to those retained on military service (which we were until May, 1919). On application for same we were told by the Paymaster that we were not eligible, as we were employed by the Guardians before the war, although we were commandeered with the Infirmary for a military hospital, and our salaries have been paid by the Guardians at Army rates, and recovered from the Army Funds."

[It appears from your statement that the treatment you have received is most unjust. We should advise any Poor Law nurses discriminated against in the way you describe to write to the Secretary of State for War (acquainting him with the facts) and ask for just treatment.—ED.]

Miss Gretta Lyons, Melbourne.—"I find much pleasure and interest in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and would miss it very much if I did not get it. I pass the copies on to the Nurses' Club, and the members say they enjoy getting the English nurses' views, and not that given by the lay press."

State Registrationist.—"I see the full Council of the Newspaper Society have unanimously passed a resolution in support of Lord Northcliffe's attitude during the late strike, in which they incorporate the statement: "The freedom of the Press has become one of the bulwarks of our popular liberties, and it must be maintained inviolate against all attempts to infringe it, from whatever quarter proceeding."

"Of all classes the workers, whose privileges have been built up by its aid, should be most zealous in vindicating the principle of a free Press."

How about the abominable boycott for years of the Harmsworth and other capitalist press, of the cause of the working nurse—her State Registration demand, and appeal for better economic conditions? Freedom indeed! This press has done everything in its power to prevent the public knowing the truth; and boomed in return every sort of detestable method of suppressing our freedom—College Company, Actresses' Charity Appeal, the Nation's Fund for Nurses, Competition of the Society Amateur, and V.A.D.'s. At last there is a glimmer of truth filtering through the "ad" barricade. I am glad to note that the new movement, the Nurses' Trade Union is not to be boycotted—even by the implacable "suppress press."

An Old Organiser.—"We are all very human! Apparently the only thing to 'Wake up Nurses' was to touch their pockets. So long as they did not recognise a pickpocket in the hospital manager of the past, they were content. But the 'Duchess Matron', the untrained Commandant, and the V.A.D. posing as voluntary workers, and doing very well on national funds during the war, have opened their eyes, and now that war is over they are in no mood to submit to the patronage of the Society woman and competition from her partially-trained protégées. At least, that is what I gathered from the angry cries of 'Down with the Colledge!' from the audience, with which the Nurses' Trade Union meeting closed on October 25th last."

Exploited Nurse on Private Staff.—"I was glad to hear Miss MacCallum tackle the abuse now so widespread in the hospital world of exploiting private nurses at the Trade Union meeting. It is certainly scandalous that hospitals should continue to make money from farming out private nurses on terms with which nurses cannot compete outside. At the recent annual meeting of Governors of this hospital not one word appeared in the report of the profit made out of us. Everyone who had subscribed a guinea was lauded to the skies, but we nurses who have each given £25 at least through our work were, of course, ignored. The Professional Nurses' Union will do well to attack this abuse as soon as it is formed. Our Matron considers the system 'quite justifiable.'"

From a Leading Training School.—"Matron warned most of us against going to the Trade Union meeting at Mortimer Hall. Has she a right to do so? [Ask the Committee.—ED.]

A Trained Nurse asks the following question: "Would any reader of the *British Journal of Nursing* kindly let writer have particulars of the femur beds in use lately in Army hospitals in France and England? Can one be seen or purchased in England? Enquiries at surgical makers' shops so far are fruitless, and the bed is needed badly for a heavy, helpless, private case." Please reply through Journal.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

November 8th.—What are the physical defects for which a nurse or midwife should look in washing a newly-born infant? From what do they arise, and what is her duty in regard to each?

November 15th.—What are the probable causes of otorrhea, and how would you nurse such a case? What complications might arise, and how would you recognise them?

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