

EXPRESS YOUR CONVICTIONS BY THE FIRST POST.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Of what avail the Thirty Years' War, or the victory of December, 1919, if the very objects for which we fought go by the board? If the Scottish Council places nurses with only special training, Cottage Nurses, and such like, on the General Register, where does the stability of the trained nurses' position or the safeguarding of the community, come in?

We are all ready to admit that there are many people who, by their manipulative skill or the power of their personality, are of great help to their fellows in time of sickness; but to suggest that natural endowments, with perhaps a few weeks or months' training, should entitle these estimable people to be placed on the Register of Trained Nurses, is to render the Act a dead letter, as far as trained, certificated nurses are concerned. State Registration on such terms is not good enough. It is neither the protection to the nurse, nor to the public, for which the struggle was made. Scottish nurses must fight their own battles, of course. Still, many who register in Scotland or Ireland will want to do so in England as well, even though it does mean the payment of an additional fee. Therefore, I venture to suggest that every fully trained nurse in England, Scotland and Ireland should write to the Chairman of her Council demanding that there shall be one minimum standard for entry during the term of grace, just as we hope there will be one portal afterwards, and that the fee for registration shall not be less than one guinea.

I am, dear Madam,
Yours faithfully,
FLORENCE E. WISE.

24, Selby Road, Anerley, S.E.

[If our readers carry out the suggestion of our correspondent, and it is a "wise" one, letters or cards should be addressed to:—The Chairman, General Nursing Council for England and Wales, Ministry of Health, Whitehall, London, S.W.1; The Chairman, General Nursing Council for Scotland, 13, Melville Street, Edinburgh.; and The Chairman, General Nursing Council for Ireland, 33, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.—ED.]

THE HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT BILL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Busy though I am, I yet find time to read my B.J.N. from cover to cover, and wish to congratulate you on all the work you have accomplished, and wish you success in your future tasks. The nurses of the present and the future will gain immensely by what you are doing to-day on their behalf. Miss Macdonald and C. A. Little exactly express my own sentiments regarding the Hours of Employment Bill for Nurses, and I should like to see it carried through. Hospitals, infirmaries, asylums, &c., will come under it automatically, although in many of these institutions hours off duty were good. But it is when one is private

nursing, district nursing, or doing any Public Health work one also needs protection. I find in working amongst the working class that people who are exacting their eight hours, and who take care to drop tools and get their coats on before the going-off horn sounds, are very selfish in their demands on the District Nurse. Although one may be on duty from 9 a.m. till 10.30 p.m., with *sometimes* an interval for dinner and tea, which may be interrupted five times out of six, Sundays and holidays, this does not stop them from calling one up in the night; and should one stop work to appear in anything going on in the neighbourhood, someone whom one has had to leave unvisited, in consequence, has a grievance against the Nurse who could so far forget her duty, for which she had been trained, as to go to a place of entertainment. After five years' private nursing amongst the middle class, and four and a-half as a Public Health Nurse, I say get the Eight Hours maximum if possible; it will at least command respect. With every good wish, I beg to remain, Yours truly,

L. C. COOPER.

Queenborough District Nursing and
Infant Welfare Department.

STREET BEGGING FOR NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—I have read with interest your reply to Sir Richard Temple's criticism of your editorial, *re* the street collection for the Cavell Funds. I feel sure I am not speaking for myself alone when I say that I heartily agree with all you have said on the subject, both in your editorial and reply.

Not only is the idea of street begging repugnant to the large majority of the nursing profession, but surely it will entirely alter the feelings of all of us towards the Cavell Homes which such collections are presumably meant to support.

The outstanding feature of these Homes has been one of homely cheer and friendliness in the past, but in future no self-respecting member of the profession can accept free hospitality without feeling she is an object of charity. She must, therefore, pay her full board and lodging, or refrain from taking advantage of much-needed rest and recreation, in which circumstances the object for which the Homes were originally designed will be completely defeated.

Yours faithfully,
E. BRIGHT ROBINSON.

57, St. Mary's Street, Woolwich.

[A very large number of letters referring to State Registration qualifications and other burning questions are unavoidably held over.—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

December 4th.—Detail the preparations for the nursing of a case of abdominal section for disease of the gall bladder.

December 11th.—How would you administer a rectal saline (1) a single injection, and (2) continuous irrigation?

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