

standard should be the same in all three countries. If there is to be any divergency, it must be justified beyond question, and it should also if possible be limited in duration. The divergencies suggested so far appear to relate to conditions in Scotland, and of these I can say nothing but that I imagine Scottish nurses will be well able to make their views heard. In any event, I suggest that, given the necessary indications of the nurses' views, the three Councils may be trusted to act not altogether unreasonably in fixing the standard. Once the standard is fixed, there must be cross-registration, and the fee for this ought to be reasonable, but the fee and the standard are distinct issues.

Yours faithfully

M. MORTISHED,

Secretary The Irish Nurses' Union.

29, South Anne Street, Dublin.

[We would refer our readers to our reply to the Chairman of the General Nursing Council for Ireland, which appeared in these columns last week.

Mrs. Mortished approves of what she terms "cross registration" between nurses approved by three distinct Registration Authorities, two out of the three being thus deprived of discretionary powers as to the persons registered, upon the payment of a secondary fee which would not cover the cost of registration; and we English nurses consider such a system professionally and financially unsound and undesirable. What is included in the expenses of registration? Not merely the cost of a few initial letters in obtaining qualifications, but in the maintenance of the Register. Thus rent, rates, and cost of offices, clerical staff, stamps, printing, cost of meetings, compiling, correcting, and issuing the Register, and maintaining professional discipline, must all be included.

Every nurse whose name is placed upon a Register costs an equal sum for the correct maintenance of that Register, and it is right that each nurse, wherever trained, should pay the same fee for the privilege.

Mrs. Mortished's statement that "if the standard of training is, as it is intended to be, uniform, this work has already been done by the nurse's own Council, and paid for by the same fee in all three countries. The cross registration fee should be merely for the transference of the name," is, as we have pointed out, a delusion.

Mrs. Mortished realises that it is "absurd" to imagine that the cost of issuing a Register can be met by the payment of 2s. 6d. (present value 1s. 3d.) as proposed by the Scottish Council. The Irish proposal to contribute 5s. (value 2s. 6d.) is equally ridiculous.

Now we come to the question of "uniform standards of training." As we pointed out last week the Scottish and Irish Councils have not so far agreed to a standard of qualification "uniform" with that laid down by the English Council. By their draft Rules women without any hospital experience whatever are eligible for registration, and the claim to transfer these totally

untrained workers on to the English Nurses' Register without any right of discrimination (as provided in the Acts) upon the part of the English Council, will naturally not be agreed to by members of that Council. In resisting these proposals the English Council is not only supporting the best interests of English trained nurses, but of Irish and Scottish trained nurses, who should rouse themselves in self-protection, so that the State Registers may protect and not delude the public.

We can assure Mrs. Mortished that English registrationists are neither inspired by "Sinn Féin exclusiveness"—God forbid!—nor are they in the least "confused" as to the issues under discussion.

English nurses demand—(1) Discretionary powers for their Council. (2) Equivalent standards for admission to their Register. (3) Financial stability for the maintenance and issue of their Register. The General Medical Council and the Midwives Boards possess these powers. Let Irish and Scottish Nurses adopt the same policy, and all will be well.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Miss Ada Power.—"When are we to have our title, 'Registered Nurse'? During the past month V.A.D.s have figured in the Courts on several occasions, and the Press gives them the title, 'Nurse,' so our profession is blamed and we suffer in public estimation. It isn't fair now our Registration Act is passed. It is just in a Court of Law our Register will be most useful. Surely we certificated nurses have waited long enough for our legal status, and paid enough for it; and many nurses feel there should be no further delay in opening the Register."

REPLY TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F. T., Glasgow.—The names and addresses of the Registrars of the three General Nursing Councils are as follows:—

- 1.—Miss Marion S. Riddell, R.R.C., Ministry of Health, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.
- 2.—C. G. Farmer, Esq., 13, Melville Street, Edinburgh.
- 3.—Major Harris, 33, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.

A large number of letters and "quotes" are held over owing to lack of space.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

December 25th.—How is diphtheria spread? What are the special points to be observed in caring for a patient suffering from this disease?

January 1st.—What complications may delay the healing of a wound? What signs would indicate their presence, and what treatment should be applied for each?

January 8th.—What are the principal affections of the skin met with in young children? and what are their underlying causes, or origin?

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