

case when she is feeling ill or tired, and does not wish to do so.

Yours faithfully,

MAUDE MACCALLUM (Hon. Secretary),  
Professional Union of Trained Nurses.

### KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

*Public Health Nurse, N.B.*—"A day seldom passes without a report in the Glasgow press of the meddling of Scottish Duchesses, and other Red Cross bigwigs, with nursing standards, and so far our Nursing Council does not appear to be taking the firm stand we certificated nurses in Scotland have a right to expect. I am awaiting the Rules for Registration, and if we cannot get a guarantee that Cottage Nurses and V.A.D.'s are not eligible for our General Register, I hope Queen's Nurses and other highly-trained women will stand outside the movement."

[That is not the best policy. Take public and united action at once before it is too late to prevent professional nurses being deprived of the protection the Nurses Registration Act provides for their welfare, and that of the public. The Red Cross Society, through its Joint Committee, has had a most disastrous effect in lowering nursing standards throughout the war. Now is the time to stop further mischief. Neither Cottage Nurses nor V.A.D.'s as such, will be thrust upon the English Nurses' General Register, without the most strenuous opposition upon the part of certificated nurses. The proposals have already aroused the strongest indignation, and we hope it is recognised that to attempt any such injustice, will wreck the whole scheme of Registration. Both groups of workers, useful in their own province, are already protected. Cottage Nurses are registered, "certified midwives" under the Midwives' Acts, and V.A.D.'s through their own highly privileged organisations. Neither class are trained nurses, and the social influence which is being used to claim for them a professional status to which they have no right must be boldly exposed and resisted.—ED.]

Miss C. M. Alderman, A Member Bart.'s League, Member Nurses' Parliamentary Council, Ward Sister, Miss Ella Mason. [We regret letters held over for want of space.—ED.]

### OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

*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?

*January 15th.*—State in detail what precautions must be taken when nursing a case of typhoid fever: (a) to guard against self-infection, (b) to prevent the spread of infection to others.

### LAST WORD, 1920.

Peroration to an Address given by Disraeli when installed Lord Rector of Glasgow University in 1873.

SOCIETY HAS A SOUL AS WELL AS A BODY.

"It is not true that the only real happiness is physical happiness; it is not true that physical happiness is the highest happiness; it is not true that physical happiness is a principle on which you can build up a flourishing and enduring commonwealth. A civilised community must rest on a large realised capital of thought and sentiment; there must be a reserved fund of public morality to draw upon in the exigencies of national life. Society has a soul as well as a body. The traditions of a nation are part of its existence. Its valour and its discipline, its venerable laws, its science and erudition, its poetry, its art, its eloquence and its scholarship are as much portions of its life as its agriculture, its commerce, and its engineering skill..."

"If it be true, as I believe, that an aristocracy distinguished merely by wealth must perish from satiety, so I hold it equally true that a people who recognise no higher aim than physical enjoyment must become selfish and enervated. Under such circumstances, the supremacy of race, which is the key of history, will assert itself. Some human progeny, distinguished by their bodily vigour, or their masculine intelligence, or by both qualities will assert their superiority, and conquer a world which deserves to be enslaved. It will then be found that our boasted progress has only been an advancement in a circle, and that our new philosophy has brought us back to that old serfdom which it has taken ages to extirpate.

"But the still more powerful, indeed the insurmountable, obstacle to the establishment of the new opinions will be furnished by the essential elements of the human mind. Our idiosyncrasy is not bounded by the planet which we inhabit. We can investigate space, and we can comprehend eternity. No considerations limited to this sphere have hitherto furnished the excitement which man requires, or the sanctions for his conduct which his nature imperatively demands. The spiritual nature of man is stronger than codes of constitutions. No Government can endure which does not recognise that for its foundation, and no legislation last which does not flow from that fountain. The principle may develop itself in manifold forms, in the shape of many creeds and many churches; but the principle is divine. As time is divided into day and night, so religion rests upon the Providence of God and the responsibility of man. One is manifest, the other mysterious; but both are facts. Nor is there, as some would teach you, anything in these convictions which tends to contract our intelligence or our sympathies. On the contrary religion invigorates the intellect and expands the heart. He who has a due sense of his relations to God is best qualified to fulfil his duties to man."

From "The Life of Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield," by George Earle Buckle.

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