

"lie upon the table." Much better begin as they mean to go on. Parliament is responsible for setting up the General Nursing Councils, and to members of Parliament trained nurses must appeal if Departmental Boards treat them with lack of common courtesy.—ED.]

#### PROFESSIONAL OPINION APPARENTLY SUBMERGED.

*Miss Ella Mason, Manchester.*—"May I ask whether it is contemplated that trained nurses will have an opportunity of having the rules explained to them before the Register is open, otherwise how are we to decide if we shall register or not? If Cottage Nurses are to become "registered" nurses, we three year certificated women had better remain outside the Act. The lay element is far too strong on the Scottish Council, and professional opinion apparently submerged."

[As soon as the rules are approved, a clear explanation of their effect will be published in this journal, and each nurse before filling in an Application Form for Registration should procure a copy of the Rules from the Registrar. It is proposed to publish them at a shilling. It is to be regretted that the lay element is so strong on the Scottish Council. The Chair, Vice-Chair and Registrar are all members of the laity, and the Chair of the Education Committee a medical man. The English Council has recognised the value of professional experts. Miss Lloyd Still, the Matron of St. Thomas' Hospital and Nightingale Training School for Nurses, is Chairman of the Education and Examination Committee. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, of the Registration Committee. The Registrar, Registrar's Assistant, and Registration Clerk, are all highly qualified nurses.—ED.]

#### THE RIGHT SPIRIT.

*Miss S. O'Brian, Dublin.*—"I for one Irish nurse, have no wish to pay less than an English nurse to have my name placed on the English Register. The Irish Nurses' Association, which stood for State Registration from the first, agreed to a fee of £2 2s. in the Bill it helped to draft and nurses would have paid it willingly. All this controversy about a twopenny fee and "cross registration" is most undignified, and belittles the whole scheme. Personally, I do not care to be registered by a Council which has no power of selection, or responsibility, to keep up the standard of either qualifications or conduct. Nice company I might have to keep. No use at all."

#### A LIVING WAGE NECESSARY.

*Ward Sister.*—"We are always reading in the 'College' Press that it is owing to its efforts that nurses now receive higher salaries. Considering the College managers and Consultative Board are the men who employ the majority of nurses, they are primarily to blame for the starvation conditions before the war. But are we receiving higher

salaries? I doubt it. You say the £1 1s. is now worth about 9s. As a Sister I am receiving £50 instead of £35 salary; I ought to have at least £75 to make it even equal. My sister, a private nurse, gets £3 3s. a week, instead of £2 2s., so the value of her weekly fee is 27s., 15s. less than before the war. The truth is, salaries are of less value in spite of all the delusions the 'College' members swallow; but we do cost very much more in food, uniform, laundry, and housing, paid for, as our salaries are, by the charitable public or out of the rates. Nurses must live, or hospitals be shut up, that is all there is to it."

#### AN ACT UNSUITED TO PROFESSIONAL NURSES.

*Queen's Nurse.*—"Can you tell me if Queen's Nurses will have to insure and pay more money under the Unemployment Insurance Act? We nurses seem to be "done for" by politicians after industrial votes, without the slightest consideration. What would happen if we refused to pay?"

[In reply to a question in the House of Commons by Major Hamilton, the Minister of Labour stated that Queen's Nurses are insurable under the Unemployment Insurance Act, as are also candidates in training under the Q.V.J.I. who are in receipt of pocket money and are regarded as apprentices.

The Act secures the cash by ignoring the employee and making the employer responsible for stamping the forms and recovering the employee's contribution. If the employer fails to obey he can be very heavily fined by being made to pay up all arrears. It is a most arbitrary Act so far as the nursing profession is concerned, as its provisions do not meet their needs in any particular, and nurses will not as a class conform to its arrangements. They will go without the weekly dole rather than attend daily at an Employment Exchange and sign the unemployment register.—ED.]

#### REPLY TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*To Miss Davis, Swansea, Miss Taylor, Manchester, and Miss Grey, York.*—The Rules for Registration are not yet approved by Minister of Health. Each candidate will be required to fill up an Application Form. As soon as these are procurable we shall announce it in B.J.N. The term of grace for existing nurses will be two years from the date the Register is opened, but to be on the first published Register nurses should make early application to have their names inserted.

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

*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.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)