

ALLEGED ILLEGAL DISMISSAL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The *Evening Standard* of the 6th instant, printed a statement alleging that "the Poor Law Workers' Union asked the Ministry of Health to hold a public inquiry *re* the dismissal of three nurses from the Brentford Union Hospital, but the Ministry refused."

May I be allowed to say that this is not correct? I was one of the deputation that waited upon the Minister, and the public inquiry was *not* refused.

Mr. Vincent Evans of the Poor Law Workers' Trade Union, informs me that the further statement: "the *Guardians* have now refused a request to state who will receive service of a writ for illegal dismissal," is also incorrect.

I should be glad of any further subscriptions towards the Fund for Legal Expenses.

Yours faithfully,

MAUDE MACCALLUM,
Hon. Secretary.

The Professional Union of Trained Nurses.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

PRIVATE NURSING NOT A LUXURIOUS LIFE.

Private Nurse.—"As an admirer of the Ranyard Nurses and their work may I say that I regret the slur in their annual report upon private nurses. It seems to me unworthy of them. I do not think many of us take up private nursing with the idea of "having a good time in motors, and as luxurious a life as possible." If we did we should soon be disillusioned. Patients do not pay nurses £3 3s. to £4 4s. a week to disport themselves thus. We take it up, in the first instance, I suppose, because we have a desire to serve the sick whether rich or poor, and usually because it is necessary for us to earn a living to support ourselves, and very often others dependent on us. It is a precarious living. Slack times give us many anxious moments, and busy times generally find us overworking to grapple with the rush. I consider private nursing a very much harder life than district nursing (and I have done both). The district nurse, though she works hard in the day, is sure of her nights in bed, which is more than we are when on day duty. But a great deal of private nursing nowadays is night duty pure and simple, and no one knows the strain of constant night duty with acute cases except those who undergo it. If a nurse wishes for a luxurious life, I do not advise her to take up private nursing."

DUTY OF COLLEGE COUNCIL TO PAY STATE REGISTRATION FEE.

Bristol Nurse.—I always read very carefully the reports of the meetings of the General Nursing Councils. It seems we may really soon claim our title of "registered nurse" so long distinguishing our trained colleagues in Dominions and U.S.A. I joined the College as directed by Matron, and now I am informed that it will be most disloyal if I ask that the guinea fee for registration shall be returned to place me on the State Register as promised. I cannot agree with this view. No doubt, the College Council means us well, but

it has lost prestige by giving the pledge which Parliament refused to ratify, and can only regain it in my opinion by advising nurse members to apply for the return of the registration guinea, paid under the written promise that they would be State registered. Any other course shows a lack of courage, if not of honourable dealing, and it is not fair to try to put us in the wrong, when we acted on the advice of our Matrons, as thousands of us have done."

[We quite agree with this point of view. We should like to see the College Council "owning up" and insisting upon returning the guineas to the nurses for the purpose for which they were subscribed—State Registration. At the same time trained nurses must also be willing to give financial support to their organisations if they expect good work to be done for them. The registration guinea should be returned to the nurses by the College Council and they should pay an annual subscription.—ED.]

QUID PRO QUO.

Member Guy's League.—"I always read with great interest the reports of General Nursing Council meetings, and note with pleasure we may soon apply for forms of registration. Also that a list of approved hospitals is to be compiled at which nurses can qualify for registration in the future. This will be a great help to would-be probationers."

[We advise would-be probationers to enquire, before signing a contract with a training school, if it is on the accepted list of the General Nursing Council, and trains nurses according to the Syllabus. Unless the reply is in the affirmative do not enter for training.—ED.]

HARD TIMES FOR PRIVATE NURSES.

Private Nurse.—"Can you advise me what to do? I am a member of a Nurses Co-operation, and have not had a case for six weeks. I do not like to resign, and yet all my winter's earnings are vanishing away. Many of my colleagues are in a like sad way. We think the District Nursing Societies must be taking cheaper the work we used to get—or is it that people cannot afford private nurses?"

[The scarcity of private work results from three conditions: The financial straits of the upper middle classes owing to exorbitant taxation; the rise of private nurses' fees to meet their increased expenses, and the extensive system of visiting nursing. Also let us hope the higher standard of health of the community has something to do with lack of work. Why not take up institution nursing for the summer? Many special hospitals are in need of nurses.—ED.]

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

July 2nd.—What are the appearances of a varicose ulcer which has been (a) neglected, (b) treated properly for a week? What is the usual treatment for a varicose ulcer?

July 9th.—Define Digestion and what the Digestive Apparatus consists of.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)