

work, less the payment of a small percentage to cover expenses.

Thus, for twenty-seven years, the Society has had the prescriptive right to its title.

During all these years, members of the Royal Chartered Corporation have worked unceasingly for the highest professional status for trained nurses, the right of Registration by Act of Parliament, in the face of strenuous and very powerful opposition upon the part of the Training Schools and the exploiters of nurses, an economic war which ended in the triumph of the nurses upon the passing of the Nurses' Registration Acts on the 23rd of December, 1919.

These Acts called into existence the General Nursing Councils for England and Wales, for Scotland, and for Ireland, and entrusted these Councils with statutory (Parliamentary) authority to define the curriculum of nursing education, the control of the State examination, and the State Registration of Nurses. The Royal British Nurses' Association at once ceased any attempt to compete with the State authority, and ceased to "register" nurses, although its standard of membership will continue to be kept to the high standard it has always maintained.

The College of Nursing, Ltd., a young organisation founded in 1916, first published a "Register of Nurses" in 1919, and it is registration by this company which appears superfluous and misleading now that State Registers are authorised by Acts of Parliament.

On Friday, September 30, that is, on Friday in last week, the First List of Applicants for Registration were considered by the General Nursing Council, and it directed that those approved should have their names entered in the appropriate parts of the Register, and should be granted a Certificate to which the Seal of the Council should be affixed.

Amongst the applicants approved were the members of the Registered Nurses' Society, and if our correspondent refers to the advertisement of this Society she will find that for the future no nurse will be eligible for membership who is not legally entitled to the title of "Registered Nurse." The same provision will also be enforced for membership of the "Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council."

We can only hope that Government Departments, hospital governors, Poor-Law Guardians, Nursing Committees of District, Private and Public Health Nurses, and the Medical Profession will follow the example of the Registered Nurses' Society, and help to give effect to the Nurses' Registration Acts, by requiring that nurses appointed to responsible positions shall be duly qualified "Registered Nurses."

State registered and certificated nurses can themselves do much to protect their own legal status by refusing to work under, or on terms of equality with, unregistered persons. What trained nurses have got to realise is, that the only form of registration—which is recognised in Courts of

Law—is registration by the General Nursing Councils—established by the Nurses' Registration Acts. We hope we have given our correspondent all the information she requires.—[ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

HELIO-THERAPY.

Hygienic Mother.—"I read with great interest the article about helio-therapy and the wonderful cures at Leysin. No doubt the germ-free air, by increasing oxygenation, improves and purifies the blood, but cure by sunlight of tendencies to disease can do much even in England. All this wonderful summer my very delicate little boy has worn only one white loin cloth garment and run about bare-foot in the garden, and on the sands in the sunlight for hours, and has gained wonderfully in health and strength."

THE HEALTH OF THE MATRONS.

A Matron on the Shelf.—"If I may express an opinion on the letter headed 'The Health of the Matrons,' which appeared in the B.J.N. on September 17th, it is that had I not been terribly worried by several of the causes mentioned by your correspondent, I should not have felt compelled to resign, which I could very ill afford to do. My two chief worries were the impossibility of getting the right type of girl to train, and the complaints of the medical staff of neglect of patients—complaints which were usually justified—and the bad quality of the food contracted for, of which everyone complained—again, I consider, with justification—but which for reasons of economy I could not get improved."

Assistant Matron.—"There is little doubt that Matrons are overworked in these days; it appears they have so many public duties, at which they wear themselves out, instead of 'playing' when off duty. This reacts upon Assistant Matrons, as I know to my cost."

Home Sister.—"I read with interest the supposed reasons for the breakdown of hospital Matrons, and can testify that the poor health of many young probationers is one cause of worry. I believe probationers are being taken into hospitals too young; many here at 18, before they are "set." I was refused by several experienced Matrons until I was 23. Impatient Sisters and anxious parents don't add to the amenities of life, when raw substitutes are sent to the ward, and pet daughters get a temperature of 103."

Head of a Training School.—"Since writing to you on September 17th another Matron friend has had a serious collapse, after fifteen years' devoted service. I am informed that her nursing career is ended."

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

October 15th.—How may the Trained Nurse help in the Sex Education of the Child?

October 22nd.—Name four Diseases to which children are liable and the Nursing treatment.

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