

supply those past pupils of the Nightingale Training School with a Certificate which can be recorded on the published State Nursing Registers of England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland? ~~5~~

Such a decision would be very acceptable to the nursing profession at large, which realises the debt which it owes to the Mother of Training Schools.—ED.]

PROFESSIONAL INDEPENDENCE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In spite of protests, &c., and strong feelings expressed by more than half the trained nurses, the National Council of South African Women insisted upon holding a "street collection" last Saturday, and the Matron of the Durban Hospital allowed some of her nurses to go out collecting. It has made us heartily disgusted, and with the desire to leave a profession when such a thing is allowed. What will happen next? I only wish we had a few strong leaders to help us on, to make people see we do not want charity; but out here people are too weak to stand by what they consider right, and say we must go by whatever the majority is.

Yours faithfully,

S. R. RICHNELL, *Matron.*

Convalescent Home,
Krantz Kloof, Natal.

[Miss S. R. Richnell and those nurses who desire professional independence in South Africa have all our sympathy.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PROFESSIONAL STATUS OF CERTIFICATED NURSES ON THE STATE REGISTER.

We have received a batch of letters from thoroughly qualified certificated nurses during the past week which might be grouped under the above heading, but think it best to hold the majority of them over until this question has been carefully considered by the Registration Committee and its recommendations placed before the General Nursing Council—as they are naturally inspired by acute indignation. The following quotation is, however, admissible:—

Certificated St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurse, Member of its Nurses' League.—"I read the report of the General Nursing Council in the last issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING with amazement. There is nothing I value more in the world than my Certificate of three years' training from St. Bartholomew's Hospital. And small wonder when I remember all I went through to obtain it. I was a member of a large and poor family, and my education very limited—practical work never came amiss to me, but I had never studied for an examination and knew nothing of the theory of nursing, without which it was impossible to gain the Certificate. With great deprivation (my salary was £8 first year) and the help of a friend, I studied in my hours off duty with an outside tutor, and passed First and Final exams.

with credit. You can imagine, therefore, how I value the parchment of proficiency from my Training School—and to place my name on a Register which deprives me of it seems a farce. But Parliament has granted professional nurses a State Register, and I, for one, do not intend to stand aside while any 'nominated' Council depreciates the privileges it might confer. There is another point. The Act and the Rules, so far as I can gather, provide during the two years' term of grace that one year's training in a general hospital or Poor Law Infirmary with two years' further service before 1919, will qualify a nurse for registration on the General Register. That means that the probationers who remained twelve months at 'Bart.'s, or left after failing to pass their First Exam., can, if their work since has been good, be registered; and it also means that, if our Certificates after three years' training and examination are not recorded in the State Register, the thoroughly qualified women are to be degraded to their unqualified and uncertificated status! A most unjust proposal. I agree with you such a blunder would wreck the Register."

[This matter is entirely in the hands of the Certificated Nurses themselves—now they have been warned.—ED.]

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Miss R. Gowers, R.N., New York.—If you wish to be a "Registered Nurse" in England you will need to produce evidence of training in this country either (1) a certificate of three years' training, or (2) of one year's training and subsequent two years' practice before November 1st, 1919, during term of two years' grace. To qualify for the State Examination you will need to train for three years under the Syllabus of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

Miss R. Silcock, Kasauli.—The Territorial Force War Medal is granted to members of the T.F.N.S. who volunteered for service overseas on or before the 30th September, 1914, and who rendered such service during the war of 1914-1919.

Nurses not now serving should submit their claims direct to the Secretary, War Office (A.G. 10), Whitehall, London, S.W.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

November 19th.—What are the principal complications of pregnancy met with in patients attending ante-natal centres, and what treatment have you seen prescribed?

November 26th.—Describe the process of bladder-washing. What is required for this operation, and what precautions must the nurse observe?

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