

and should be eligible to be placed on the General Register.

It is my opinion and also the opinion of my colleagues that nothing whatever has yet been done for the future welfare of the male nurse. We find we are suddenly left behind and only under special circumstances are we placed on the Register at all.

Male nurses have always had, in my opinion, a better training than the female nurse trained in General Hospitals. In Poor Law Hospitals and Infirmaries, male nurses have extraordinary opportunities of learning.

In the first place they have no medical students to do the dressings, and much treatment for medical and surgical cases carried out in General hospitals by students must necessarily be done by the male nurse in training. This gives the latter confidence, and is the reason, I feel quite certain, why they make the best private nurses.

On the other items mentioned, I am afraid that I cannot speak of so far back as thirty years from my own experience, but I can go back a good half way, and I quite agree that there were very few associations who at that time looked very far ahead, probably due to the slackness of the members themselves; but great alterations have taken place during the last six years, and I am pleased to see that in every sphere of life great changes are taking place daily, and as every individual is now recognised as a part of the community, and as the present time passes us daily, we all now realise that our interests lie in the future, and if we are going to build up a highly skilled nursing profession for this future, then "justice and fair play" must be given to all.

The male nurse is quite alive to the fact that he must now wake up to protect his own interests if he is still to remain in a position to carry on his work—the work he has carried on so successfully up to the present time.

Poor Law Hospital and Infirmary nurses, both male and female, must organise, because the question for them is, when the time comes for them to elect their own representative on the Governing Council, how are they going to do it? By this—and this way only—let them look up their Sub-Agents of their Poor Law Officers' Association in their own districts, who will give them full particulars of what they can and ought to do, and I urge both male and female nurses to think it over before it is too late. Let us approach this great task of building up a highly skilled nursing profession, in a determined manner, and all united, build it well on solid foundations, so that it shall resist the tempest of the centuries to come.

Yours faithfully,

W. FALKINGHAM,
Head Male Nurse.
Milton Infirmary,
Portsmouth.

[We think the title, "Registered Male Nurse," secured in the Rules for Male Nurses, will prove a

very distinctive and honourable one. The reason male nurses are not placed in the General Register is because they nurse only one sex, and cannot, therefore, fulfil the Syllabus of Training laid down for female nurses.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

THE OPENING OF THE REGISTER.

Kingsford, Boscombe.—"Heartiest congratulations, soul-felt thanks and best of good wishes; also to Miss Breay."

Georgina B. Macvitie, Wandsworth.—"Please accept my very warmest and heartfelt thanks for the great work to which you have given your whole heart and soul to get for our very noble Profession our just status. You have *achieved*—our thanks are due to you—and I with many others am proud of having been trained by you. I am applying for my Form and hope to be registered, though not now in active work."

Louise Bennett, R.B.N.A., Ladbroke Road.—"With joy I looked for the coming of the *B.J.N.* this week, and at last find our hope is realised. I do trust this is only the beginning of greater things for our sacred profession. We all realise what you have done, also many others, and may we not fail in our appreciation of it, but strive earnestly in the future to act up to our responsibilities."

Soon to become a "Registered Nurse."—"It is not everyone who lays a foundation that lives to see the coping stone placed on their life's work. May I congratulate you on behalf of myself and I imagine every other intelligent member of the Nursing Profession for the work you have done for us, both by precept and example, as well as through 'THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.' May you live to see 'Registered Nurse' recognised as the hall-mark of the Profession."

Janet Fraser, Paris.—"May I lay emphasis upon the Imperial importance of the Nurses' Registration Acts. Now indeed, through State Registration at home, we Dominion-trained nurses can feel truly part and parcel of the whole sisterhood of British nurses. I am writing home to Canada for identification papers, so that I can apply for registration in London. Nothing will do more to draw our Dominions together than this State Registration link between its nurses through the Motherland. We are in and out of the people's homes on such confidential terms—we are socially a powerful body."

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

August 6th.—What do you know of cholera, including its causes, symptoms, and nursing care?

August 13th.—What do you know of the modes of diffusion of tuberculosis throughout the races of the world?

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