

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in any way hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

THE REPRISAL RESOLUTIONS CARRIED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have read in this week's BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING the Notices of Motions to be brought before the General Nursing Council at its next meeting, and I most sincerely hope that the members of the Council will turn down all three. The first because we Registered Nurses wish our Register to be as trustworthy as it is humanly possible to be.

Therefore, though a Justice of the Peace, barrister, or solicitor could testify to the accuracy of certificates presented for their inspection, they would have no means of knowing if they were the property of the persons presenting them; they might be stolen, or forgeries, or belonging to deceased nurses.

Surely only the signature of the Matron or Secretary of the hospital in which a nurse is trained should be accepted, as they alone know the nurse and her training. And, further, to placate the College of Nursing, Ltd., certainly nurses should *not* be placed upon the Register simply because they belong to a Society of Nurses. Every nurse's certificate and testimonials should be judged on their merits.

Also, may I point out in regard to the second motion that it seems to me a most extraordinary thing to wish to change *all* Committees only a few months before the Council goes out of office, just when they are all *au fait* with the work.

In regard to the third motion, I for one think it most essential that *all* certificates, &c., should be examined by members of the Registration Committee, or the Council, who were appointed by Parliament to do it, and not left to the sole discretion of the Registrar. Surely it is *not* the duty of the Registrar to decide who is to be Registered, but to prepare the documentary evidence for the duly appointed members of the Council to consider.

If this motion is passed an official of the Council becomes almost a dictator, and we Registered Nurses are not going to submit to her authority. Apologising for the length of my letter.

Believe me, dear Madam,

Yours sincerely,

MARY BURR, Registered Nurse.

East View, Lydd, Kent,

February 10th, 1922.

[This letter was held over last week as the Resolutions had not been considered by the Council. Miss Mary Burr will learn through this week's issue of the JOURNAL that all the "Reprisal Resolutions" were thrust upon us.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

PROFESSIONAL SPIRIT SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.

Registered Nurse.—"I greatly admire our waiting-room at the G.N.C. office, at York Gate, but why is that lovely table lumbered up with obsolete old *Punches* and other out-of-date papers? No B.J.N.—our Registration organ; no American, Canadian, Australian, South African, or New Zealand Nursing papers—all of which, I feel sure, would be sent if asked for, so that we 'Registered Nurses' of the world might keep in touch with one another. The professional spirit should be encouraged at our Headquarters if registration is to be a real success."

MY LITTLE BIT OF VANITY.

Social Worker.—"I, too, watched the march of the unemployed last week. Felt I ought not to go home and eat a good supper, and was thoroughly ashamed of my nice warm fur coat. But, of course, if we bought nothing there would be more unemployed. It is the contrast on every hand between enormous wealth and abject poverty that *must* be wrong. Then there is a niggardly spirit amongst the well-to-do—they always seem to think what they term the 'lower classes' have no right to *enjoy* life. Why? All classes of people need relaxation. A dear creature I know, who works early and late for her children, appears to deny herself everything to send her pretty little daughter to school charmingly dressed every day, and to find the money she spends on pink ribbon to make big bows to tie up her golden curls. 'My little bit of vanity,' she replied when I ventured to remonstrate; 'we takes our pleasures in different ways, and my pleasure is to see them curls and pink ribbons entwined. I don't spend nothing in hats.' So you see I was unwise in my surmises. I grudged a *poor* child pink ribbons, and the mother the pleasure of indulging her vanity, so instead of giving my poor friend some warm 'knickers' for Polly at Christmas, I presented her with a pair of white silk stockings for parties. Silly! Not a bit of it. Real joy was the result."

Sister Amy Strong.—"I thought of going to Canada to get into the wilds so as to have room to breathe and spread myself. We are getting more cramped and narrow here every day. And then I read Mrs. Cleary's charming little report *re* 'Starting a Baby Clinic in B.C.' Seems I should run into 'Mrs. Soldier's Settlement Board' first go off. I feel sure the work is excellent and most kindly meant and helpful, but if Mrs. Cleary could tell us of some outlying place—perhaps in the Yukon or away up Hudson Bay way—where a nurse could make a living on her own without interference, I might be tempted to make a try. I don't care if I come a cropper, if I may guide my own steed."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

March 4th.—Describe the structures and functions of the nose, and what you know of epistaxis.

March 11th.—Describe the Spinal column, and the treatment of Fractured Spine.

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