

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.

COMPLICATED ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—England is reaping the bitter fruit of the past oppression of Ireland. Her eyes have been opened to this truth, but will that make her see and stop the present insidious form of tyranny which threatens to paralyse the future of the nursing profession?

A powerful society has come into being which, though uncommercial, partakes of the nature of a Trust or Combine in its methods and effects. It is supported, no doubt with good intentions, by the majority of Employers of nurses—that is to say, by doctors, matrons, and certain wealthy lay people. This, in the eyes of the unknowing or unthinking, is an argument in its favour, whereas, it is there that the peril lies. They are quite content to take the opinion of Sir West-End Doctor, of Miss Big Hospital Matron, or of Lady Money Bags, without enquiring whether there is another side to the question, and that is the workers' side.

Those who see into the future; and understand the uncontrollable force of vested interests and the perilous strength of monopolies of influence, will, however, realise that a power of the kind to which we are referring must be balanced by independent bodies and by freedom of individual criticism in the same way as political power in this country is, or should be, balanced.

This conviction alone has given endurance and courage to the women who have devoted their lives to the welfare of nurses, and now find themselves faced with a determined attempt on the part of one body to obtain control of nursing affairs.

A Meeting of Protest is to be held at which an explanation of the present points at issue will be made.

Every man and woman who cares for fair play should attend and hear the facts and then help to avert the danger that threatens a body of women who have served the public so diligently that they have never had time to study—and therefore do not understand—the complicated economic conditions on which they depend.

The public meeting is to take place on March 10th, at 7 p.m., at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.

I am, yours faithfully,
EVELYN L. C. EDEN.

The Grange, Kingston,
Taunton.

A REGISTRATION UKASE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—Miss Mary Burr's anxiety that the General Nursing Council is handing over its responsibilities to the Registrar would be rather

amusing if there were not some danger of other nurses also believing it.

In her letter she displays but a partial knowledge of the issues of the motions to which she refers, and it is evident that the points with which she is not *au fait* are really the ones of most importance.

For instance, she supposes quite erroneously that the Registrar of the General Nursing Council *decides* who is to go on the State Register, and it seems only fair to inform her that she is mistaken.

The Registrar is merely responsible for seeing that each application conforms to the requirements laid down by the General Nursing Council for admission to the various parts of the Register, and to prepare for the Registration Committee's consideration irregular applications, and those which do not conform to the standard laid down.

In this manner it should be clear that the Registrar is acting under instructions in the same way as any responsible head of a Government department acts, and is in no way responsible for the acceptance or rejection of any candidate.

Further, any application would be forthcoming at any time for scrutiny by any member of the Registration Committee, should he or she desire it, but the enormous amount of work to be done in connection with the compilation of the Register renders it imperative to save time as and when possible.

If nurses are dissatisfied with the present methods of administering the Act, they should use all their efforts to get as many nurses as possible to register in order that they may secure the representatives they desire at the forthcoming election.

May I point out to Miss Burr that the nurses have it in their own hands to choose their new Council, and it is in their own interests to encourage nurses to register and exercise their right to vote—not to discourage them by destructive criticism based on an incomplete cognisance of the points at issue.

Yours faithfully,

EMILY C. SWISS

(Member General Nursing Council).

St. George's Lodge,
Bexhill.

[We are of opinion that Registered Nurses find nothing "amusing" in the present unconstitutional methods of the Party in the General Nursing Council with which Miss Swiss associates herself, and her reply to Miss Mary Burr does nothing to allay their anxiety.

On referring to Miss Burr's letter, published last week, we think she has summed up the results of the trilogy of resolutions calculated to injure the work of the Registration Committee, very accurately. Miss Cox-Davies' Instruction to the Registration Committee, seconded by Miss Swiss and passed by the Council, is as follows:—

"That it be an Instruction to the Registration Committee to examine only those cases (applications.—Ed.) which are reported to them by the Registrar as being doubtful, and that the Registrar

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