

I object (3) to Miss Cox-Davies's "Instruction." We want no bureaucracy in our office and no Star Chamber for our Council. With all due respect, the Registrar is our salaried official; her duty is to act as such. She is not a member of the General Nursing Council, and has no right to be placed in a position to assume its functions, and I hope those members of the Registration Committee who object to this Instruction will stand firmly against being placed in a totally false position. Parliament has entrusted them with responsibility for the correctness of our State Register, and they should refuse to accept responsibility without authority. The General Nursing Council is responsible to the Registered Nurses, that they should take every means in their power, by personal scrutiny and otherwise, to keep faith with us. By weakly handing their authority into the hands of an official they are betraying their trust. Such persons who have neither time, inclination nor energy to scrupulously perform their duties to us in this connection, had better resign, and let others succeed them who have a keener professional conscience.

I have no wish to offer what Miss Swiss calls "destructive criticism," but from the tone of her letter to her fellow "registered nurses" presumably any expression of opinion which differs from her own is "destructive." Until members of the nominated Council realise that they are our trustees and not our dictators, I fear "destructive criticism" will continue.

Believe me, dear Madam, yours sincerely,
 MARY BURR, *Registered Nurse*.
 East View, Lydd, Kent.

THE UNCERTAINTY OF THE RULES FOR REGISTRATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I note Miss Swiss advises that "if nurses are dissatisfied with the present methods of administering the Registration Act (I am, for one) 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."

I am in touch with a large number of certificated nurses, and from the moment I heard last July that nurses could apply for registration by the G.N.C., I have used all the influence I have in advising them to join *early*, and I think with some success, explaining the Rules to them, and also the value it would be to the first Register to have as many capable, thoughtful nurses on it as possible, as they would be the ones responsible for electing the nurse members on the next Council. I shall now hold my hand until it is decided whether the Rules under which we registered are to hold good or not, as I should have no faith in a Council elected by those whose certificates and credentials have not been scrutinised by members of the Council.

There is no ambiguity about the "Instruction." The Registration Committee is instructed "to examine only those cases which are reported to

them by the Registrar." As you point out this gives this official "discretion"; an outrageous condition of affairs.

Yours,

JULIA HURLSTON *Registered Nurse*, No. 18.
 Victoria Institute for Nurses, Bournemouth.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—Miss Swiss's reply to Miss Burr's letter in the *B.J.N.* clearly shows her ignorance of the general feeling predominating at the present moment among registered and would-be registered nurses.

Far from finding amusement at Miss Burr's anxiety, Miss Swiss would do well to realise that the same anxiety mingled with *distrust* is being strongly felt among the majority of the thinking women of the profession to-day. Miss Burr is accused of "displaying only a partial knowledge of the issues, etc." I would remind Miss Swiss that the unexplained resignations of certain members of the General Nursing Council leaves us with only a partial knowledge of the policy of the people entrusted by Act of Parliament to safeguard the interests of the profession, also that to the "partially-informed," the speeding-up policy appears to be somewhat ill-timed after the ten weeks' stagnation on the part of the Council. It is obvious from results obtained that speeding-up is essential, but not at *any* price.

I might mention that I applied in August, 1921, to be registered. I received my certificate in January, 1922. Though certainly belated, I have the satisfaction of being *State Registered* and not *placed automatically on the Register* by any outside authority.

There are 4,180 nurses who registered previous to January, and among them a sufficient number of pukka State registrationists to ensure that the electorate of October next will not waste the power of the vote, it is therefore scarcely necessary to use the coming election as an excuse to speed up registration on lines other than the prescribed and accepted rules given to us by Act of Parliament.

Yours faithfully,

S. J. ROSSITER, *Registered Nurse*.
 (Member Barts' League, Member R.B.N.A.).
 Sisters' Quarters,
 Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

"SPEEDING UP REGISTRATION."

A *Laywoman*.—"A sense of humour does not appear to be an attribute of the Ministry of Health. 'Speeding up Registration' can hardly have been accelerated by the majority of the G.N.C. sulking in their tents for ten weeks! nor by entrusting this policy of hustle to those who in the past have opposed registration by every means in their power, or by making new Rules to eliminate the 'real registrationists' from power. As a member of the public whom Parliament intended to protect through the Nurses' Registration Act from inefficient and disreputable nurses, I strongly object to the 'fell

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