

swoop' method of compiling the Register. It appears truly Gilbertian to me that the nurses have to pay the expenses of the members of the Council who go on strike when they choose, and who are whipped up to vote against their true interests when the strike is called off! I have been interested in the registration campaign for thirty odd years, and always admired the self-supporting manner in which the nurses conducted it. No first-class fares for them. As Mrs. Sarah Grand says of the old Duke: "that is not the way old Ninnie does things." I do not suppose the 'College' nurses want to be exempted from providing documentary evidence of their qualifications for State Registration by the G.N.C., or to be admitted in bulk at a reduced price—as apparently proposed by their 'bosses' to the Ministry of Health—but if any such 'concession' is made to this Company, 'half-price' ought to be added to their 'certs.' as an additional qualification! The practical result of the present new Rule exempting applicants from presenting documentary evidence—excepting on the hearsay of the College Secretary—is to substitute the College Council as the Registration Authority, in place of the General Nursing Council appointed by Parliament. Glad to see Protest Meeting on the tapis. These new Rules and the Ukase affect our rights as citizens, as well as those of the Nursing Profession. I have written to our Member on the matter."

DELIGHTED WITH REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE.

Miss Jessie Appleyard.—"My registration certificate has come. I am delighted with it. Beyond its own special value to each nurse receiving it, it must always stand for the years of unwearying thought, and brave effort on the part of yourself. Miss Breay and those who have helped you to bring about the accomplishment of the Registration Act."

THE RECORD OF CERTIFICATES.

From Miss L. L. Doch, U.S.A.—"Dear People,—I doubt that I shall ever go abroad again. The way you two go on working is a marvel. Yes; I did read, and almost fell from my chair, that most despicable attempt to deprive nurses of their professional records. What will not those people attempt? . . . Long life to you both."

FINE NATIONAL WORK.

Mental Nurse.—"Thank you for recent editorial. Indeed, it seems 'all kicks and no halfpence' for mental nurses. We are too much shut away, but things are bettering. Male mental nurses live a much more natural life than we women. Some marry and come in for certain hours' service, and have their nice little homes, kind wife and children to console them in off-duty time. Why can't we women do likewise? But, then, what would happen to the homes, the husbands, and the children if we left them all day? Circumstances for working women are different. We never earn enough to be really free excepting for a few hours at a time. But I am *very strongly in favour of marriage*. We are coming to a time when the enforced celibacy of many of the best of women is going to be a very vital question

indeed. More marriage, more mothers—that is the first step towards emptying asylums so far as women are concerned. I have just been to take my B.J.N. to a friend, who is a midwife, and simply grudges anyone being a 'spin.' Some of our girls are very bonny, and went laughing past her window. 'Oh! dearie me; what a waste! There's mothers for you!' she exclaimed with a sigh. 'Anyway,' she added, 'they are very good mothers to those poor demented creatures. Let's hope they'll have their reward.' So I thought I would send you a line to thank you for recognising that our work is worth while, and if any 'baubles' and bits of ribbon come along we shall appreciate sympathy and recognition very much indeed. Excuse a rambling letter."

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editor has received a number of letters to be inserted, unsigned, on the question of repealing the Rules for Registration a few weeks after they have been through Parliament without opposition, and the reasons surmised for such a policy. We know how injurious the results may be to those correspondents who sign their names, but in this controversy only signed letters carry weight, and we will find space for such communications. Miss Mary Burr and Miss Julia Hurlston present the opinions of the majority of our correspondents, the keynote of their opinions being a demand for justice and equality for all nurses, with scrutiny of references by members of the Council before registration. No "fell swoop"; efficiency, and not expediency, in compiling the Register, and no sacrifice, by sweeping them off Standing Committees, of the faithful few who incurred the ill-will of their colleagues by standing firmly and *publicly* for the right of nurses to have their certificates recorded against their names on the published State Register; and, incidentally, no interference at the Ministry, or otherwise, in the Council's business by the men who control the College of Nursing, Ltd.

The Editor thanks Miss Colville (Glasgow), Miss E. Simmons (Manchester), Miss A. Tubbs (Nottingham), for appreciative letters sent with annual subscriptions.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

March 18th.—Describe the hygiene of ventilation as applied to the sick room and hospital ward.

March 25th.—How would you prepare a patient for a Rectal or Anal operation? Say what you know of the nursing of Rectal Cases.

April 1st.—Describe the nursing of a patient who has been operated on for carcinoma of the rectum.

April 8th.—Detail the nursing of a patient suffering from a fractured pelvis. What complications must be looked for, and, if present, reported to the surgeon?

We regret that we are unable to award a prize this week, no paper of sufficient merit having been received.

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