

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 FUTURE HOLDS OUR GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

DEAR MADAM,—When, in December, 1919, I read of the passing of Dr. Addison's Bill for Nurses, I thought your magnificent fight of years' standing was victoriously ended; it seems now that it only then began, with just this difference—the first fight partly gained its end, I say *partly* because I know that the Government Bill did not embody all that the fully-trained nurse had hoped for. Nevertheless, we were grateful for this said Bill. The second fight is to hold on to that which was won.

Sir Alfred Mond, in his utterances on March 22nd, refers to this, *our* fight, as an "old-standing squabble" which should not have troubled the House. Surely, this is not the attitude to be taken by the Minister of Health towards a matter which concerns that section of the community so vital to the National Ministry of Health, *i.e.*, the nursing profession. Sir Alfred had a great opportunity to serve that section on March 22nd, and to display his interest in and knowledge of the rights of that profession. Instead, he gave the House (1) a questionable legal point for excuse; (2) an admission of ignorance of a most important communication from the Scottish Nursing Council, which had not only been read and discussed in Council, but had appeared in the nurses' press; (3) an inaccurate statement of numbers of nurses already registered; (4) an implied threat to repeal the Act unless two rules, objected to by a large number of nurses who have contributed to the upkeep of the Register, and by that right alone are entitled to a voice in this *their* affair, are accepted; and (5) (*and not least of his offences*) *his opinion* that the thorough work of the Chairman of the Registration Committee who has insisted on the ORIGINAL conditions of registration being complied with, as "METICULOUS AND RIDICULOUS." So much for *his* standard of obligation and responsibility. Before I conclude I would like to remind nurses that they are free enfranchised women with a duty to the community first and next to their profession, and in the immediate future lies their golden opportunity.

Yours always loyally,

S. F. ROSSITER.

Sisters' Quarters, Haslar.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENTS.

COERCION *v.* CRICKET.

E. Shekleton, Ebury Street, S.W.—"Will you kindly send me the address of the Registrar of the

Nursing Council for Ireland? As an Irishwoman, trained in England, I want to know if I may register in Ireland. I'm proud to belong to the Commonwealth of Nations known as the British Empire, and had hoped to see my name on what one considered the Mother-Register, but I should prefer to remain unregistered (and you know what that means to a member of the League of—Nurses), than come under the jurisdiction of a Council which, with a few exceptions, seems to date from the coercive reigns of King Canute and King Ina. One hoped that at least the General Nursing Council for England and Wales would be above politics, and administer justice impartially. I've lived in Australia, Switzerland and France (before, during, and since the war), and when in Denmark, some time ago, was told by a Matron who had travelled much that English Nurses were tied up in "red tape" to an extent the women of no other country would stand. Small wonder Matrons can't get the applicants they want. A modern College should teach cricket!"

R. A. Conway, Weld Road, Southport.—"I am furiously angry at these presumptuous retrogrades; anything more low-down mean could not have been conceived. I mean the tricks which have resulted in Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's, Miss Villiers' and Miss MacCallum's removal from Committees of the G.N.C. But they are *not* to have it their own way, their way being all wrong for the workers. If only the workers would keep together and try and understand. I feel that you will pardon my giving way to my feelings."

[We are only too thankful to note honourable indignation and to give it expression in this Journal.—ED.]

One of Many.—"I am boiling over the latest iniquity of the 9 (a) and 43 (2) scandal and the treatment of you and others who protest. What-ever should we do without our staunch B.J.N.?"

[No profession can exist for a day without an organ in the Press. Its spirit, conscience, genius and progress would be inevitably crushed out—by financial exploiters—subsidised by employers.—ED.]

We regret to hold over dozens of letters on this matter.—ED.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

April 15th.—What steps would you take as a midwife in a country town to safeguard the health of expectant mothers who have booked you to attend them when their babies are born?

April 22nd.—Detail the preparation and administration of (a) starch and opium enema, (b) a stomach wash-out, (c) a bowel wash-out.

April 29th.—Give some practical hints on the application of plaster casts.

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