

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.

TÊTE MONTÉE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The Association of Hospital Matrons have solemnly expressed their "very general disapproval at the attitude taken at a meeting held on March 10th, under the auspices of a society recently brought to the notice of the public, bearing the title of 'The Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council.'" It sounds rather like a benediction doesn't it, coming from the quarter it does? If the large majority of the members of the Association of Hospital Matrons had not been "wandering in the anti-registration wilderness" while a certain gallant little Society was busy winning the war, they would know that the Council is an old friend—or enemy—with a new name, and that the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses having successfully attained the one object for which it had striven for 17 years, namely, "To obtain an Act of Parliament for the legal Registration of Nurses" had taken the advice of the late Minister of Health (Dr. Addison) and reconstituted itself, so that all the Parliamentary experience it had gained should not be lost.

As to its Constitution—well, at any rate, the Association of Hospital Matrons may be assured of one thing, the R.N.P.C. has sufficient originality and conscience to draft one for itself, and does not—as the Association of Hospital Matrons did—lift, word for word, without acknowledgment, the constitution of a pioneer Society (The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland) or write rude letters to the Press, when chagrined at this lack of the creative faculty on the part of its officials being pointed out.

Yours truly,

MARGARET BREAY
(Hon. Secretary R.N.P.C.)

CRUSHED AT ALL COSTS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I learn that the fiat went forth that "Mrs. Fenwick was to be crushed at all costs"; hence the mendacious brief supplied to, and used by, the Minister of Health in the House of Commons, on March 22nd. Glad to see you in such fine fettle at our rousing and representative meeting at Chandos Street, on April 8th. May you live many years "to frustrate their knavish tricks," and help us to realise the ambition of every self-respecting nurse to secure an elected General Nursing Council composed of "Registered Nurses" alone, free from lay and medical domination. American nurses are professionally free; and compose their own Registration Boards; why are British nurses still treated like toads under a harrow?

Yours very truly,
MARY S. BROADBENT.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENTS.

SEX DOMINATION IN THE G.N.C.

Miss Amy Tate.—"After listening to the admirable speeches at the meeting in Chandos Street on April 8th, exposing a condition of affairs in the mismanagement of the General Nursing Council, I voted wholeheartedly for Resolution V, by which the meeting pledged itself to combine for self-protection, and for the protection of such privileges as have been granted to nurses by Parliament. There will never be peace until we are free from the interference and patronage of the laity and of the second-rate type of medical practitioner who assume authority (to which they have no right) over trained nurses. The sooner the R.N.P.C. gets to work the better—not only for nurses but the public. Nurses who do not possess any professional self-reliance will find the treatment they prefer as members of the College—where a small number of men control its policy—and, if I am not mistaken, are busy initiating this sex domination in the G.N.C. If they succeed it means the degradation of our profession—and death to all our higher aspirations. Those of us who are alive to this danger must resist with all the spiritual and physical force we possess."

AN ABOMINABLE CABAL.

Member Bart's League.—"I cannot express to you how disgusted I feel at the reprehensible conduct of the majority of the General Nursing Council in agreeing to remove you from office, and that we nurses are to be deprived of your unique experience on the Registration Committee, and nobody on it but 'antis' and 'indifferents' left to depreciate our Register. To my mind the Certificates will be of little value now. I should feel regret at having 'registered' were it not for having *your* signature on my certificate, which will always carry weight the world over. Personally, I have never heard of any of the little clique who now run our Register in so far as they are permitted to do so under the bureaucratic method in vogue in the office, nor anyone else outside their immediate circle. The worst thing to me is that two of my colleagues on the Bart's League have taken a leading part in this abominable cabal. College tactics we free nurses so bitterly detest."

SCANT CIVILITY.

Matron.—"Why is a nurse kept at the G.N.C. office an hour-and-a-half before she receives attention, and treated with scant civility at that? Is there any remedy?"

[None, we fear, under existing conditions.—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

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

May 6th.—When a child is in a state of apparent asphyxia, describe how you would endeavour to establish regular respiration.

We regret we are unable to award a prize this week.

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