

I agree with you that the attack upon yourself all round the room by those responsible for the new system is too contemptible to reply to in detail. The discussion on the Resolution was not primarily the cause, and indeed wandered so far away from it at times that I wonder the Chairman did not call certain members to order. But none the less, there is a feeling of burning indignation and outrage on the part of nurses that in striving to protect their liberties you should be subjected to such insults. They had their foundation, of course, in the "stupidity and jealousy" which Sir James Barrie has told us "are the two black spots in human nature which more than love of money, are at the root of all evil."

My heartfelt gratitude and admiration for all you have done, and are doing for nurses is, as always, yours.

JULIA HURLSTON,  
*Registered Nurse.*

DEAR MADAM,—It must astonish and distress all fair-minded persons who consider the state of affairs on the General Nursing Council to-day.

The attack on yourself at its last meeting has, on the face of it, its origin in personal animus, but a public body cannot be justified in allowing private jealousy or dislike to outdo their duty to the community.

The whole question turns on the pivot as to whether a Council appointed by Act of Parliament is fulfilling the trust reposed in it by delegating its responsibility to an official in its employ.

Your contention is that it is not so justified, and you have apparently awakened the antagonism of the majority by remaining true to your principles, which, after all, are clean politics.

Unfortunately, the presence on the Council of medical men and other outsiders who are unable to appreciate the point of view of professional women has given to the retrogressionists an unfair advantage.

Many of these ladies, who for years have helped to stop the clock, now seem anxious to rush the business at full speed by adopting methods that will bring the Register into contempt.

"Nothing is excellent that is wrought suddenly." Those who in the past impeded progress now seek to take cover from their sins by pushing their comrade, whose brains they have picked, out into the storm.

Will they even now reflect that if they had supported her in the precious years that are past there would now be no need for superficial methods of speeding up, which are a serious reflection on the business acumen and conscience of a Government body.

Yours faithfully,  
HENRIETTA HAWKINS.

#### KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

##### NOBLESSE NOT OBLIGE.

*Elizabeth S. Dawson, Leeds.*—"Thank you for bringing to our notice *Time and Tide*. It is an admirable paper for women, and we are greatly indebted to the editor for giving so much space

for free expression to members of the nursing profession on their own affairs. Of course we do not all think alike. Why should we? There will always be nurses desirous of exercising their own faculties (although perhaps not quite so emphatically as Florence Nightingale, according to her biographers), and those too timorous to do so, and who prefer to act under direction—even as reactionary as that of Lord Knutsford. It is a matter very largely of temperament, and a certain type of man, with authority over women, will always attempt to bully them. The absolute authority officials and doctors have so far been allowed over women in hospitals is most unhealthy—both for these centurions and for those who "goeth and cometh." Presumably *noblesse* is not *oblige* in our peers *nouveaux*."

[Apparently not.—ED.]

##### THE REASON WHY.

*Miss E. E. Jarvis, Bexhill-on-Sea.*—"It is with pleasure I renew my subscription, as I know the *B.J.N.* to be *the one reliable* Journal for Nurses."

[Because it is edited and controlled by Registered Nurses.—ED.]

##### NO FINANCIAL STATEMENT SINCE 1919.

*A Member, Bart's League.*—"I see in the report of a meeting held at the Mansion House in support of Alexandra Day that Miss May Beeman, the professional collector and organiser of the Fund, stated quite irrelevantly "that on Armistice Day they set to work to raise £100,000 to help nurses who did not get pensions, and would never be able to work again. They had raised £108,000, and were helping a tremendous number of nurses, who went through the stress of the War, to live in comfort. The money had been invested, and would always be available to help nurses who were not able to provide for their old age. By means of collecting cards, they obtained nearly £30,000.' This sounds very fine indeed. Why, then, does not the Nation's Fund, to which presumably Miss Beeman was alluding, issue its balance sheet and financial statement? Why hide its light under a bushel? I know nurses who went through the stress of the War, and who would like to live in comfort, which they find difficult at present, but I never hear of any nurses who can get a penny of this £100,000 raised in their names."

##### NOTICE.

We much regret that, owing to erroneous information, it was last week notified in this Journal that Her Majesty's Hospital, Stepney Causeway, had removed to Exeter. Her Majesty's Hospital is a branch of Dr. Barnardo's Home, and nothing is known there of any such transfer.

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

*June 10th.*—Describe some of the most important disorders of nutrition, their symptoms, and nursing care.

*June 17th.*—Mention some of the more common skin affections, their causes, and the treatment you have seen applied.

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