

It came to my knowledge that a certain mode of training prevailed at the present time in Paddington Hospital, Harrow Road. I put this information before the General Nursing Council, leaving it to find out if my information were correct or not. No hospital should be recognised upon its past reputation, nor yet upon its plans for the future, but only upon its system of training at the time of application. I stated that I had been informed that a number of male nurses were doing the work in the male wards of the Paddington Hospital, and that the women nurses, therefore, did not get sufficient experience in nursing men. The Matron of that Hospital, in the letter which you published on July 1st, proves that my information was correct. She states: "Their help (male nurses) is only a temporary measure owing to the shortage of female nurses," thus proving that the men are doing work that could be done by women nurses.

My second point was that in some of the male wards where women probationers were working, men nurses were also employed. I think the Matron's letter proves that on this point my information was also correct. Trained male nurses are being employed at three guineas per week in male wards of this hospital. One cannot but believe that they are employed as staff nurses, as the Matron specifically says that there is a sister-in-charge, and a *senior female probationer in every male ward*. Most of us know that although the Sister is nominally responsible for the training of probationers, it is yet impossible for her to be with one on every occasion, so that a great deal of practical teaching devolves upon the Staff Nurse. What I should like to know is: who teaches the senior female probationer in any male ward where a male nurse is acting as staff?

There has been so much controversy as to the propriety of men and women medical students being trained together, that I think the same argument should apply to nurses. It was for this reason I asked that Paddington Hospital should be referred back for further information.

Yours faithfully,
MAUDE MACCALLUM,
Registered Nurse.

NO COERCION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—My attention has been drawn to a paragraph in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING in which reference is made to an attack supposed to have been made by myself at the College of Nursing meeting on the "Organisations of Free Nurses."

I am afraid the member from whom you state you received the information must have heard what she *desired* to hear rather than what actually occurred.

I made no attack on any organisation of nurses, whether "free" (whatever that may mean) or otherwise. Certain statements were made by me which are accurately reported by members of the Press present. The truth of these statements

I think can hardly be called in question any more than the fact can be challenged, that the College of Nursing, Ltd., has brought into existence an organisation in which the majority of the profession are happily united, and which will prove to be of valuable support and strength to the State Register.

I shall be obliged if this letter may be published in your next issue.

Yours truly,
R. COX-DAVIES.

Royal Free Hospital, W.C.1.

[We refer elsewhere to the unjustifiable statements made by Miss Cox-Davies at the College meeting concerning her colleagues who decline to be organised and governed by wealthy members of the laity, and thus sell their professional freedom for a mess of pottage. Our correspondent writes, "the truth of these statements, I think, can hardly be called in question." We call them in question and give them a flat denial.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

A PROFESSIONAL ASSET.

Miss Elinor Pell-Smith, Leicester.—"I feel I must write to you as I have just written to the Registrar at York Gate acknowledging my Certificate. I do appreciate the honour of possessing it, and am most especially glad that I am one of the highly privileged ones to have Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's signature appended."

M. Farthing (Registered Nurse).—"Dear Madam, I would like you to know how much I prize your name on my certificate. I think the way you persevered to bring the Registration Act about was splendid. The nursing profession will always feel grateful to you for your untiring energy and help. Thanking you for what you have done for myself as a Registered Nurse."

Member Bart's League.—"Thank you for not submitting to latest attack in G.N.C., it helps us all. It is perfectly scandalous that an official should be permitted to privately spread misleading (should like to use a stronger word) statements about a member of the Council and never apologise when they are disproved. I have only registered to support colleagues less independent than myself, otherwise I would not be associated with a Statutory Body thus managed."

C. B. M.—"What a shame to make that poor nurse send away her dog. I suppose she could not afford to resign, and the Committee knew it."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

July 15th.—What indications would lead you to suspect contracted pelvis? How is labour affected by this condition?

July 22nd.—Define (a) simple tumour, (b) malignant tumour, (c) cyst, (d) hæmatoma, (e) abscess. Give examples of each.

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