

to her profession under very difficult conditions during her term of office. Miss Cattell remained at the post of duty when the majority of the Council, without reason given, absented themselves from meetings for ten weeks, and thus failed to perform the public duties they had undertaken upon our behalf.

I find upon enquiry that Miss Cattell's vote has invariably been recorded in support of justice to the profession as a whole; she was in the minority in opposing the proposal of the College Matrons and Dr. Goodall to deprive us of the record of our Certificates on the published State Register. She voted for Mrs. Fenwick's amended First Schedule to include the record of Certificates, to which the Minister agreed. She voted against Miss Cox-Davies' Instruction to deprive the Registration Committee of the right to scrutinise applications and references for registration unless permitted to do so by the Registrar! She voted against Dr. Goodall's Rule 9 (A), designed to give preferential treatment to members of the College, when it is the duty of a Statutory Council to maintain strict impartiality. She voted against Miss Coulton's Rule 43 (2), designed to remove a Registered Nurse from the Chair of the Registration Committee, and substitute a medical man, with the result that our nurses no longer have the signature of a nurse member of their Council on their Certificate, "to take and use the title of Registered Nurse," but it is endorsed by two medical men, thus establishing a most unprofessional precedent. What Private Nurse would value her Certificate of Training unless it was signed by the Matron? And what high-class Co-operation would admit her to membership without it?

Under unprofessional control none of the privileges Parliament granted us in our Registration Act have materialised.

No Syllabus of prescribed training is yet in force. No Register published. No protected Badge. No protected Uniform. The question of the use of titular letters after our names, a privilege enjoyed by every Registered Nurse throughout the world, is being opposed by the reactionary element which dominates the Registered Nurses' governing body, and has stultified all its work.

Other wrongs Miss Cattell has helped to avert by her vote, and to everything of value that has been secured she has given her support.

I claim, therefore, Miss Cattell has earned the support of all Private Nurses throughout the country; and I ask that by their votes at the coming Election Private Nurses will send to represent their most responsible branch of nursing on the Council, a fully-trained certificated nurse, who has proved that she has the courage of her opinions where the government of Registered Nurses by Registered Nurses is concerned.

Thousands of nurses of independent spirit have refused to register and place themselves under the control of the present Council—a mistake, in my opinion; but let me urge those who have a vote

to use it *righteously* and not *expediently* at the coming Election.

Yours faithfully,

SOPHIA S. CARTWRIGHT,
Registered Nurse

(Sister Secretary, Registered Nurses' Society,
Cert., St. Bartholomew's Hosp.).

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

"THE EXCOMMUNICATION OF VITAL ENERGY MAKING FOR PROGRESS!"

E. S. M., Swansea.—Out of curiosity I attended a political meeting recently in this town addressed by our late Minister of Health. He apparently vibrated with the purest Liberalism. One statement which he made interested me vastly. He said "The country needs vital energy, and yet there are people so foolish as to wish to excommunicate the man who represented the vital energy making for progress." I longed to ask him how about his attack upon Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in the House of Commons, and his attempt to excommunicate the one woman in our profession who represents "the vital energy making for progress." Also he said, "If Liberalism dies, Socialism will be the only progressive force, and Socialism would be a disaster to this or any other country. That is why I think the future of the Liberal Party is vital, and must remain in the future, as in the past, the refuge of sane reform." Does Sir Alfred Mond consider it "sane reform" to threaten to repeal the Nurses Registration Act, when it cost us working women thousands of pounds to obtain this lever for professional reform?

WHERE TO REGISTER.

Apply for Application Form to the Registrar:—

ENGLAND AND WALES—12, York Gate, Regent's Park, London, N.W.

SCOTLAND—13, Melville Street, Edinburgh.

IRELAND—33, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.

Forms should be carefully filled in and the names given for references from persons who have agreed to supply them.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

November 25th.—Why is the purity of milk and the clean handling and distribution of milk of vital importance to the nation? What points are of special importance in this connection?

NOTICE.

We have received many complaints that THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING cannot be procured through certain newsagents. We, therefore, advise nurses requiring copies of recent issues, and also of the current issue, to obtain them direct from the Press Printers, Ltd., 69, Long Acre, London, W.C.2, or from the Manager, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.1.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)