

so correct the erroneous impression conveyed in your former Editorial?

Yours faithfully,

EMILY E. P. MACMANUS.

14, Brunswick Place, W.C.1.

[We had hoped that nurse members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., had repented of the action of their Hon. Officers in issuing a letter to them, inviting them to wreck the Nurses' Registration Bill in the House of Commons in 1919—a very terrible betrayal of the interests of our Profession, especially after having promised, on the Second Reading, not to oppose it—and that was the reason they were not prominently in evidence in support of Mr. Lyle's election in West Ham—the man who ruthlessly blocked the Nurses' Bill. on the Report stage. Apparently our correspondent is either ignorant of the part he played or approves of it, and this we cannot believe. Anyway, a man who could, at the dictates of the employer, take the lead in the House of Commons of smashing a Bill for the State Registration of Nurses, and thus violate the most sacred professional aspirations of thousands of conscientious nurses, who had worked for it for years, has no right to legislate for them, and it should be the duty of Registered nurses to keep a "seeing eye" upon the records of legislators and act accordingly at any future election.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

NOTHING SHORT OF CREMATION.

A. K. R. writes: "Not being a Registered Nurse—[More's the pity.—ED.]—I cannot apply for a ballot paper for election of members to the G.N.C., but I hope you realise you have no more sincere well-wisher than my useless self. Were I to begin to write of the shameful and really *illegal* manner in which you have been treated this letter would reach an unreasonable length.

I have followed the dark course of your enemies' tactics with disgust. Still, their actions are a great tribute to the splendid work you have accomplished and their terror of your power unless you be ousted; but we who know you are aware cremation would be the only really successful plan."

[We deeply regret that many of our dear old friends decline to place themselves under a Council which has persecuted us, and those associated with us on the G.N.C. for standing for the rights and privileges granted to the nursing profession in their Registration Act. This policy, though quite natural, isn't efficacious, when it comes to counting votes; and we advise our colleagues not to be guided by their outraged feelings, but by logic. If battles have to be fought it is no good standing out. Come along and fight alongside.—ED.]

CANNOT AFFORD DINNER EVERY DAY.

Certificated Private Nurse.—"This has been a very unremunerative year for Private Nurses, and in the Home in which I stay some of my colleagues

have been on very short rations indeed. More than one has told me she cannot afford dinner *every day!* On all sides we see institutions nibbling at our daily bread; soon there will be none left for independent nurses. With very few exceptions Training Schools run Private Nursing Departments, though I am glad to hear some are on the co-operative system. Now even Poor Law Institutions are taking in Paying patients, so we are not only deprived of patients, but must pay indirect rates to be so deprived. All the same, we must assume some of the blame for our sad condition. The truth is we have always been too selfish or self-satisfied to combine for the common good. When shall we hear of the College of Nursing, Ltd., protesting to the Governors of the Training Schools of making substantial profits out of their private nursing staffs? Not so long as it is controlled by Hospital Treasurers and Medicos, of whom the Matrons stand in awe. Miss Cattell, who appeared in the B. J. N. last week, must be a very unusual woman to stand on her own all these years. I hope she is returned to the G.N.C. to stand up for Private Nurses."

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We continue to receive letters from private nurses objecting to the proposed depreciation of private nursing by the College Council in nominating a nurse to represent this branch, who does not hold a three years' certificate of training from a recognised training school.

In reply to enquiries from Registered Nurses as to how they are to obtain their Voting Paper to take part in the election of Direct Representatives to the Register formed by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, we beg to remind them that the ballot is a postal ballot, and that they will receive their Voting Paper from the Chairman of the Council, who is the Returning Officer.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

December 9th.—What complications are to be feared in an attack of acute influenza? What precautions should be taken to avert them if possible?

We regret that the publication of our Prize Competition Paper is a week late, owing to the great pressure on our space in connection with the election of Direct Representatives to the General Nursing Council.

We regret we are unable to award a prize this week, no paper of sufficient merit having been received.

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