

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.

"BLAMING IT ON TO EVE."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—When Miss Lloyd-Still stated at the last General Nursing Council that, owing to my wishes that the ballot should be secret, the addressing of envelopes and distribution of voting papers was given to an outside firm, I was greatly astonished that a lady in the position of a Matron of one of our principal training schools should be so ignorant of the matter of elections. She evidently did not know that the secrecy of the ballot depends not upon who sends out blank papers, but upon who receives them when they are returned. This lady must have known, as I know, that the marked papers were being returned to the G.N.C. Office.

When, by a curious coincidence, a lay nursing paper published on the same day almost the same statement, I thought it time to place the matter in the hands of my solicitor.

I may add that I have written to this lady, pointing out that her statement, which has no foundation in fact, is likely to prejudice my re-election to the Council. I enclose the correspondence.

I wrote also to the Chairman of the Council with regard to the statement in the paper, pointing out that he, above all others, was in a position to know that the minority had *no responsibility whatever* for the election fiasco, and asking him, as Chairman, to refute this inaccurate statement. His reply to my letter was: "I never take part in newspaper controversy."

Yours faithfully,

MAUDE MACCALLUM,
Hon. Secretary.

The Professional Union of Trained Nurses,

December 22nd, 1922.

[Copy.]

62, Oxford Street, W. 1.
December 16th, 1922.

DEAR MISS LLOYD-STILL,—

Re. G.N.C. Election.

At the General Nursing Council meeting yesterday, you stated that the envelopes to be addressed were sent to an outside firm by Miss MacCallum's wishes in order to make the ballot secret. As this mis-statement will be very prejudicial to my re-election to the Council, I ask you to withdraw it as publicly as you made it.

I have no knowledge or information of any sort as to what arrangements the members of the Council who have undertaken this business have

made, as it was never brought before the Council for discussion. Had it been so, I should have opposed it strenuously.

Yours truly,
(Signed) MAUDE MACCALLUM,
Hon. Secretary.

Miss Lloyd-Still,
Matron, St. Thomas's Hospital, S.E.

[Copy.]

St. Thomas's Hospital, S.E. 1.
December 20th, 1922.

DEAR MISS MACCALLUM,—In reply to your letter of December 16th, I think you are mistaken. I have referred both to my own recollections and to the shorthand notes, and find that neither support the statement you give in your letter as having been made by me.

Yours truly,
(Signed) A. LLOYD STILL.

To Miss Maude MacCallum,
Hon. Secretary, The Professional Union
of Trained Nurses.

[Our issue of December 23rd corroborates Miss MacCallum's statement. The clerical method and cost of carrying out the Election were not brought before the Finance Committee or the Council, as they should have been. The Chairman as Returning Officer, has taken entire responsibility. It will be observed that throughout his Apologia to the nurse-constituents he addresses them in the first person singular. It only remains for the nurses to pay the cost of two elections instead of one—unless they have the courage to seek redress.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

"THE NURSES' MONEY."

Miss Amy Moore, Liverpool.—"After reading the Report of the proceedings of the General Nursing Council, on December 15th, can anyone wonder that thousands of well trained nurses hesitate to register? If this was a man's Council for which the Ministry of Health was responsible, would it be permitted to disgrace itself and treat them in the manner the medical bosses and matrons treat women nurses (the male nurses, I note, get preferential terms)? Certainly not. The waste of money over this double election—the Darbyshire job—and the Registrar's hundred guinea 'rest cure,' is perfectly scandalous. No wonder they object to Miss MacCallum reminding them it is the 'Nurses' Money' which is being squandered."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

January 6th, 1923.—What preparations would you make, and what apparatus would you put out for the Infusion of Blood? Under what conditions might Infusion of Blood be necessary?

January 13th.—What purposes are served by (a) chyme; (b) chyle; (c) pancreatic juice; and (d) bile?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)