

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.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

During the past month we have received many letters from friends from Dominions Overseas expressing indignation at the College tactics in removing the genuine registrationists and free nurses from the General Nursing Council, to place in power those formerly belonging to the opposition and amenable to lay control and patronage. We thank these friends. We do not take a gloomy view of the situation. Evolution is inevitable; and, indeed, in this country the "College" attitude towards the working nurse and her supporters (reaction *in excelsis*) cannot last. The treatment of the free nurses who dare to form and express opinions concerning their own lives, by autocrats and bureaucrats, in and out of Parliament, is a growing weapon in the hands of Socialists and Communists. We make a point of conversing with men of the various political parties, and find "nurse ragging" in the G.N.C. is becoming quite well realised and understood.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Mother of Poor Law Probationer writes:—"Miss Cumberbatch, the Chairman of the West Middlesex Hospital, is evidently a very autocratic woman, to judge from the report of an interview with her which appears in the *Ealing Gazette* on the recent Slatter case. The lady was not satisfied with the compromise. 'I was strongly in favour of fighting on, but I understand the difficulties of doing that when you have had a clear indication from the Judge that he does not want to be bothered further with the case.' Then she, of course, has a dig at the Poor Law Workers Union, who took up the discharged nurses' case, whom, she surmises, 'must be very sick.'

"Even if we could have foreseen the sequel we should still have done what we did. There was rot and we stopped it. The case was operative and we operated. And the operation was successful." The manner in which Miss Slatter was 'hoofed out' of the hospital by Mr. Greville Smith, the Chairman, was evidently highly approved by his colleague, Miss Cumberbatch. Why does power over wage-earners 'so fly to the head' of non-self-supporting women? A subconscious knowledge of their own inferior status in the body politic, I surmise. Anyway, their arrogance is colossal. The Slatter case has quite determined us to prevent our second daughter training as a nurse."

[Those of us who resent the odious patronage of Lady Hobhouse and the Hon. Mrs. Hills on the G.N.C. are fully alive to the obnoxious methods of lay "operators" on professional "subjects."
—ED.]

THE MAKING OF "NURSE MIDWIVES" UNFAIR.

Another Queen's Nurse.—"I quite agree with 'Queen's Nurse's' views of how unfair it is now that Registration is in force, to make 'Nurse Midwives' who will not be qualified for the Nurses' Register. Neither should Nurses be taxed to subsidise County Nursing Associations in making inferior practitioners to take the bread out of their own mouths. But Nurses are such hopeless creatures where social economics are concerned—they know nothing."

ASK THE EDITORS.

Registered Fever Nurse.—"Can you tell me why both *The Lancet* and *British Medical Journal* omit all reference to the unrest in the nursing world, evidenced by questions in the House of Commons, and also why they do not insist upon justice to probationers by the G.N.C.? What right have the medical men on the Council to deprive us of rights granted by Parliament?"

[We should advise our correspondent to write to the Editors of the two medical journals.—ED.]

A LEGAL OPINION.

Miss J. M., Fulham.—As the Minister of Health has agreed to the vote of the new Council to deprive us of our Syllabus of Training preparatory to the State Examination for the General Part of the Register, may I suggest we obtain Counsel's opinion as to our rights under the Nurses' Registration Act? We are enfranchised citizens with professional legal status—why accept without protest the position of serfs? The treatment of the Nursing Profession by the College Caucus which now composes the G.N.C. is arousing resentment and hatred which can only find expression in undesirable directions! The Bourbons were of exactly the like calibre—and where are they?

THE TIME IS SHORT.

The General Nursing Council for England and Wales reminds Nurses that every person who desires to be Registered as an Existing Nurse must apply before July 14th, 1923, after which date no application can be entertained.

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.

IRISH FREE STATE—33, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.

NORTHERN IRELAND—118, Great Victoria Street, Belfast.

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

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

May 19th.—Describe a fifth type of nurse, as known to many a sufferer. (See article, "Four Types," on page 278 in our issue of May 5th).

May 26th.—What do you know of Psoriasis, the different types, and their local and constitutional treatment?

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