

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.

PROSECUTION UNDER THE DENTISTS ACT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I enclose cutting as follows. I note they are not going to allow any blacklegging among the dentists—why among nurses?

"FIRST CASE IN SCOTLAND.

"The first prosecution in Scotland under the Dentists Act came before the court at Aberdeen yesterday when William Wellburn, a dental mechanic, not being registered, was fined £6 for having fixed artificial teeth to a dental plate and taken an impression of a woman's mouth preparatory to fitting a set of artificial teeth."

I have written to the Minister of Health, as, by signing Rule 9 (1) (g) he has deprived the public of the protection they enjoy under the present Statutory Rules, and made it possible for us to be exploited by humbugs who, posing as nurses, have never had a day's hospital training in their lives. The doctor M.P.s—especially Dr. Chapple, who knows better—are showing the old cloven hoof of professional jealousy of the thoroughly qualified nurse. No wonder the right type of girl fights shy of nursing. How different to the good old days, when nurses had some self-respect! Now, under College caucus, they appear too cowardly to keep the splendid privileges won for them. Well do I remember the fine professional spirit of the eighties at meetings presided over by Princess Christian, whose death is a great blow to nurses and nursing.

Yours truly,

A MEMBER OF THE EXPLOITED PUBLIC.

[According to the statement made by Miss Seymour Yapp at the recent G.N.C. meeting, 15,000 College nurses have protested against the proposal of their Council made in a letter to the G.N.C. and signed officially by Miss Rundle, the Secretary, on December 29th, 1922, that "the door of admission to the first State Register should not be closed to any 'Existing Nurses' who can show that they were in *bona fide* practice as nurses of the sick for three years before November, 1919." That includes nurses with no hospital training whatever.—Ed.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PROTECTION OF THE UNTRAINED.

M. A. B. writes: "The following has come to my notice. Some years ago, a woman without any nursing experience became nurse-caretaker to a small-pox hospital. Later she took a midwifery training, and is now a boarding house proprietor in a seaside town. She has been accepted for the State Register, and her certificate is framed and hanging in the said boarding house.

The State Register appears to be for the protection of the untrained and not for the trained."

[The name of this registered nurse is not enclosed, but now that the demand originating from the College of opening the General Part of the State Register to "every existing nurse," whether trained or not, has been agreed to by the support of the Labour Party, the Register will be of little use to trained nurses and the public for years to come, as any untrained Gamp may now wear our "protected" uniform and badge.—ED.]

Trained Nurse, Dumoon, writes: "In Glasgow Herald appears an advertisement inserted by the Old Kilpatrick Parish Council for a 'female' to act as nurse. Applicant must be able to 'draw up reports on cases, have experience of needle-work and best 'general nursing, etc.' One wonders what the 'etc.' is supposed to include. One would like to know if many 'females' of the particular sample required by the O.K. Council reside in the parish."

[Now that State Registration of Nurses has been in force for two years—all such advertisements for nurses paid by public bodies should begin "Required a Registered Nurse," and then the duties and salary should be inserted. But we fear so long as the so-called Nursing Profession is governed by the laity and controlled by employers that everything will be done to minimise the "status" granted to nurses by Parliament. In England we are the mere "chattels" of titled women, medical autocrats, and self-interested matrons in high places, of bureaucratic Government officials, and—as you will see by the report of the Debate in the House of Commons on 13th inst.—the Labour Party instigated by the medical Member for Dumfries played "soccer" on the floor of the House with our Statutory rights. "What a game!" as Lord Curzon says.—ED.]

NOTICE.

BADGE FOR REGISTERED NURSES.

The Badge for Nurses registered in England and Wales has now been approved by the Council.

Nurses who wish to have the badge should apply direct to—

The Registrar,
General Nursing Council
for England and Wales,
12, York Gate,
Regent's Park,
London, N.W.1.

Stating full name and present address, also registration number and whether registered on General or Supplementary Parts of the Register.

Postal Order for 5s. 6d. should be enclosed, and the word "Badge" written on the outside of envelope.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

July 7th.—Describe briefly how you would prepare the following baths, namely:—Alkaline, saline, mustard, starch, sulphur.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)