

'self-government' because the nurses are responsible for having elected unprofessional persons to the Governing Body. Neither of these ladies begin to understand what 'self-government' means, and the majority of the members of the College are too apathetic to wish to exercise authority over their own affairs, and are quite content to vote as they are advised.

Once more heartfelt thanks to Margaret Breay for her splendid advocacy of our right to a professional conscience, and for knocking the bottom out of the specious claims of the College. Let that institution cease tampering with the free nurses' organisations. If its members prefer outside control let them enjoy it, and leave us to manage our own affairs. Their representatives on the G.N.C. have ruined our State Register for a decade and have blocked our right to a 'prescribed' Syllabus of Training, and now our lovely harmonious international relations might have been disturbed by this 'apple of discord' had we not had the fearless advocacy of Miss Breay.

"Plagiarism by this group is as despicable as it is notorious. Apparently devoid of any creative faculty, they have no hesitation in attempting to absorb the credit for the work of women who have State Registration, Matrons' Council Constitution, and now our International relations. Praise be for Margaret Breay, valiant protagonist for right and honour."

THE RETENTION FEE.

We have received quite a number of enquiries *re* the Retention Fee for State Registration, for which the Registrar has sent out the legal demand.

To quote:—

"I applied 13 months ago, paid a guinea; paid a 2s. 6d. Retention Fee a year ago, now another is demanded. Why? My name has not yet appeared on a printed register."

"It is hopeless to ask for the return of my Registration Fee, but as I consider I have paid it under false pretences (the first Statutory Rules), and although I applied more than a year ago, have never had my name appear. I do not see the Registrar has any right to write for another Retention Fee as I paid one last year."

"I suppose if I do not send another 2s. 6d. I shall have my name removed from the Register, and the sooner the better, now 'all and sundry' are to have their names placed upon it to delude the public."

"I think it is a shame of the *Nursing Mirror* to delude trained nurses *re* the value of registration by the State and by the College Company. If it had not been for the College our State Register would have been of some value to us. To be a member of the College gives a nurse no real legal status, but the younger nurses are so ignorant they believe what they are told in the employers' press. I do not intend to pay any more fees until my name appears on a printed Register."

[No one sympathises more deeply with the Nursing Profession in its acute disappointment with the depreciation of its status by the malad-

ministration of their Registration Act than the Editor of this (the State Registration advocate) Journal. We have no hesitation in affirming that the depreciation of the State Register on the initiative of the College of Nursing, Ltd., is a cruel wrong, and we are not surprised at all the bitterness the College policy has aroused. The deplorable lack of efficient organisation of the General Nursing Council business largely controlled by College members, in spite of its very extravagant expenditure, is also to be deplored; but we advise Registered Nurses not to deprive themselves of legal status because they have been so despitely used, but to unite to demand from the Ministry of Health that the Act shall be efficiently administered. The fact that we are paying for 35 officials when the routine work of the General Medical Council is efficiently managed by six; that close on 20,000 applicants are waiting to be registered; that thousands of certificates are yet unsigned by the two medical men who have monopolised so much personal power in our office; that the Register from July to December, 1922, due in January, 1923, is not yet issued; that a 2s. 6d. Retention Fee is now being demanded, presumably for 1923, although the fee for 1922 has so far been contributed in vain, are just a few items into which it is high time the Ministry of Health enquired. We hope the new Minister of Health will enquire from unofficial sources into the deplorable manner in which the Nurses' Registration Act is being administered by ignorant and autocratic persons, whose one idea of managing nursing affairs is apparently to suppress freedom of expression and action upon the part of the rank-and-file of the profession, and to deprive them of rights granted to them by Parliament. As soon as Parliament reassembles, thinking nurses should unite to demand a Select Committee to enquire into the whole nursing question, with a view to placing our profession in professional hands according to precedent established for men's professions. We know no training school which has a waiting list of highly-educated young women waiting admission for training; we know of hundreds which are admitting unsuitable women for lack of the right type. How the sick suffer under these conditions is an open secret. We have a right to remedy these conditions, and we should be given the power to do it.—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

September 15th.—What is the distinctive value of Night Duty in the scheme of training for nurses? What do you consider the advantages and the drawbacks of Night Duty?

September 22nd.—What are varicose veins? How are they caused, and how treated?

September 29th.—Show how the tooth brush may carry infection from a diphtheria carrier and how it should be disinfected. What other articles may become vehicles of infection, especially in schools?

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