

## 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.*

## NOT A WRONG AND SELFISH VIEW.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—It is with considerable indignation we have read in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING Dr. Chapple's letter to Sir Arthur Stanley in which he says:—

"I was at equal pains to show that all the nurses on the deputations took a wrong and selfish view . . ."

May I state on behalf of this Union, that the first and most important point we brought before the Medical Committee of the House of Commons was the grave danger to the sick of stamping untrained women with the hall-mark of the State.

We only hope that it will not need many more instances of the sacrifice of life that may occur through placing in the hands of untrained women responsible duties, to make Dr. Chapple realise what a very great injury he has done to the sick amongst the community, and the danger that is liable to arise through unqualified women assuming the work and position of the qualified.

Yours faithfully,

MAUDE MACCALLUM,  
Hon. Secretary,

Professional Union of Trained Nurses.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—As I had the honour of introducing one of the deputations of nurses to the Parliamentary Medical Committee, may I enter a strong protest against the assertion of Dr. W. A. Chapple that "all the nurses on the deputations took a wrong and selfish view." Whether the views of the nurses were right or wrong is a matter of opinion, and equally with Dr. Chapple I am entitled to hold the opinion that they were right. That they were selfish is certainly untrue. The speakers from the Royal British Nurses' Association confined themselves almost entirely to the importance of safeguarding the sick public and to the impropriety of giving to women inadequately trained a State Certificate of competency. Incidentally, mention was made of the breach of faith with regard to those who had already registered believing in the sanctity of an Act of Parliament.

May I point out that although this rule is now law, all is not yet lost. A clause in the new rule provides that "The Council may require the applicant, as a condition precedent to registration, to present herself for special inquiry before a medical officer or officers appointed by the Council." Without this clause the rule would have been *ultra vires*, and could not have been approved by the King in Council, for clearly it preserves the discretion

conferred on the General Nursing Council under the Act. The Council have it still in their power to protect and safeguard the interests of the public and to prevent the State Register being flooded with the names of those who have no claim whatever to be enrolled among the members of the most gentle profession.

I am,

Yours very truly,

HERBERT J. PATERSON.

9, Upper Wimpole Street, W. 1.

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

## THE VOTE COVERS ALL.

*Miss Elise McCrea.*—"Dr. Chapple is a Scottish M.P. Why did he not make provision in his modification of Rule 9 (1) (g) for degrading the Scottish Nurses' Register, instead of attacking the very moderate standard of the English Register? I think English and Welsh nurses have a very real grievance against him in this particular, as they cannot vote against him at the next election—as we Scottish nurses most certainly shall do if he tampers with our standard, already a dangerously low one."

## THE GAGGED PRESS.

*Councillor Beatrice Kent writes* :—"Twice within a few days I sent a letter to the Press, commonly—but most erroneously—called the 'Free Press.' In both cases my letters were courteous in tone and of urgent importance. In both cases they were returned to me with scant courtesy. We should do well to follow the example of America, where there is a Free Press and where they treat their women with greater courtesy than they do in this country, where women are of no account. The women Members of Parliament would earn the gratitude of their sex if they would introduce a Bill which would give facilities to the public to express their views through the Press."

[There has never been greater proof of the danger to professional workers of the "Sup Press." Trained Nurses have been denied access to the publicity which the Jew-governed daily Press professes is free, for years. What working women are suffering to-day the whole nation will suffer to-morrow if Jew control continues.—ED.]

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

*August 4th.*—What are the duties of a District Nurse attending a case of illness, towards the other members of the family?

*August 11th.*—What nursing measures other than drugs may be used (a) to quieten a restless or delirious patient and to induce sleep, (b) to check vomiting, (c) to induce the skin to act.

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