

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.

CRUEL AND CALLOUS.

We have received from the Matron of the Alford War Memorial Hospital, Lincolnshire, the following correspondence relating to the removal from the manuscript and printed State Registers of Nurses of the honoured name of Miss S. E. Cartwright, who worked so unceasingly for its establishment over a period of over thirty years.

Registered Nurses are aware that if a nurse does not forward a retention fee each year, by the end of November, her name is excluded from the Register "as from the beginning of the succeeding year, unless the Council for any special reason otherwise direct." Incapacity to deal with business owing to serious illness would, we should have imagined, been held to be a "special reason," if the facts were known, as we have reason to believe it was in this instance:—

Letter from the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to Miss S. E. Cartwright:—

THE RETENTION FEE IS PAYABLE YEARLY IN ADVANCE.

DEAR MADAM,—I am directed to inform you that at a meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales held on June 20th, your name was included amongst those which were placed before the Council as having failed to pay the retention fee for the year 1924. Your name has therefore been removed from both the manuscript and the printed Register. Notification was sent to you in August, 1923, of the fact that your retention fee was payable at the end of September. As it was not received by the end of November a further notification was sent to you.

If you wish your name to be re-included in the Register it will be necessary for you to make application to that effect enclosing the sum of 5s. for such re-inclusion. I enclose a copy of the Rules governing the fee for retention in the Register and the fee for re-inclusion in the Register.

I am also directed to inform you that a nurse who has failed to pay her retention fee and whose name has been removed from the Register is not legally entitled to call herself a Registered Nurse, and if she does so is liable under the Nurses' Registration Act, Clause 8, to a fine not exceeding in the case of a first offence Ten Pounds, and in the case of a second or any subsequent offence Fifty Pounds.

You will understand that in addition to the sum of 5s. payable for re-inclusion of your name in the Register, there will be the retention fee for the year 1925, which is due in advance, viz., on September 30th, 1924.

Yours faithfully,

MARIAN S. RIDDELL,
Registrar.

Miss S. E. Cartwright.

12, York Gate,
Regent's Park,
London, N.W.1.

Letter from Miss Rhoda Metherell, Matron of the Alford War Memorial Hospital, to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales:—

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—As Matron of the Alford War Memorial Hospital where Miss Sophia E. Cartwright is at present a patient, I open her correspondence for her, as she

is quite unable to do so for herself, and have read your communication informing her that her name has been removed from the manuscript and printed Registers, for her failure to pay the retention fee for 1924, and threatening her with legal penalties if she calls herself a Registered Nurse.

Miss Cartwright who is one of those pioneers who worked faithfully for over thirty years for the establishment of the Nurses' Registration Act which you now administer, would be the last to neglect any of her obligations were she in a state of health to fulfil them, and I regret that such a letter should have been sent to her when ill and unable to attend to business. I am thankful it was not read by her, as the effect upon her might have been serious.

In January, 1923, as I believe is known to some members of your Council, and to your Registrar, Miss Cartwright had an attack of cerebral hæmorrhage, which incapacitated her from work. She was convalescing in the country, when she had a second attack on September 1st of that year, which is no doubt the reason why you received no answer to the communication which you say was sent to her in August, 1923. As soon as she could be moved she was brought to this hospital where she still is.

I enclose herewith the 5s. for which you ask, for re-inclusion of her name in the Register, and am sure that any one of the many nurses who have in the past worked under her, as I have done, would have regarded it as an honour to do the same, had they been aware of your action in removing her name from the Register for which she practised considerable self-denial, and gave much personal service, to help to establish.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

RHODA METHERELL,
Matron.

Alford War Memorial Hospital.

Letter from the Registrar of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to Miss Metherell:—

DEAR MADAM,—I have to acknowledge your letter of July 22nd enclosing 5s. for the re-inclusion of Miss Sophia E. Cartwright's name in the Register. This application will be put before the Council at its meeting in September, after which the official receipt will be sent to you.

Yours faithfully,

M. S. RIDDELL,
Registrar.

12, York Gate,
Regent's Park,
London, N.W.1.

Letter from Miss Metherell to the Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales:—

DEAR SIR,—On July 22nd, I wrote to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales explaining the circumstances under which the retention fee of Miss Sophia E. Cartwright for the current year was not paid, and enclosing 5s. for her re-inclusion, and received a reply from the Registrar dated July 23rd, saying that "this application will be put before the Council at its meeting in September."

May I ask whether this letter has been brought to your notice, as I am of opinion that letters addressed to the Council should be brought before it. I further consider that official receipts should be sent without delay for money received.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

RHODA METHERELL.

Alford War Memorial Hospital.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)