

## 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.*

## STATE CERTIFICATES OF NURSING CHEAP AT THE PRICE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—It was kind of you to send me the copy of the March issue of your Journal.

I am sorry you are so cross with me for what I said in my letter to the Secretary of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. There was nothing in that letter, however, regarding the Syllabus of Training, with which generally I quite agree, and which has been carried out pretty closely for many years in my own hospitals. It was only to the proposed fees that I took exception, and these I still consider preposterous, and repeat what I said in my original letter that "I am sorry indeed, because I am most anxious to see the establishment of a reliable register," the only real guarantee of a responsible profession.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

H. KERR,

*Medical Officer of Health, Medical Superintendent, City Hospitals for Infectious Diseases, Newcastle-on-Tyne.*

["Cross" is not the word to use in regard to our expression of opinion on Dr. Kerr's letter in the *Lancet* of February 16th. The everlasting depreciation of the Profession of Nursing is never better illustrated than by the contention that legal status is not worth paying for. A fee of £5 5s. for two examinations qualifying nurses for legal status is a very moderate one, and is estimated to meet the cost only. Sanitary Societies, Societies of Masseuses, and others charge fees for their examinations with which the fees for the Nurses' State Examination compare very favourably, while the Diploma in Nursing at Leeds University costs £10. If medical men would try to inspire nurses with some respect for their profession it would be very helpful in these days of degenerate nursing.—ED.]

## THE PERSECUTION OF MISS WIESE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In the March issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING you publish on page 67 a "Statement by Miss Maud Wiese" in which the following sentence occurs:—

"The member of the Mental Nursing Committee who gave this information which was published in the *Nursing Mirror*, was not dealt with."

I shall be glad if you will kindly correct this statement in your next issue, as no information supplied by a member of the Mental Nursing Committee of the General Nursing Council appeared at any time in the columns of the *Nursing Mirror*.

Yours faithfully,

(MRS.) CONSTANCE WILCOX,  
Editor.

*The Nursing Mirror,*  
28 and 29, Southampton Street,  
Strand, W.C.

[We beg to refer Mrs. Wilcox to the article, "Shortened Training for Registered Nurses," published under the name of Miss Seymour Yapp in the *Nursing Mirror* of February 16th of this year (page 395), in which the following sentence occurred:—"Some replies to the request made by the G.N.C. stated that the writers did not consider that the nurse with previous mental training could be trained in General

Nursing in less than three, and in one case four, years; others that they had no accommodation for extra nurses; though it was not a matter of extra nurses, as the nurse with previous training ranks as a second year nurse."

If Miss Wiese was to blame in quoting from the letters considered by the Mental Nursing Committee, Miss Seymour Yapp—who, we may inform Mrs. Wilcox, is also a member of that Committee—is equally blameworthy. Personally, we exonerate them both, as cuttlefish darkness on G.N.C. proceedings is most undesirable.—ED.]

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

PAYING THE PENALTY OF APATHY.

*A Registrar in Canada.*—"I cannot tell you how keenly we all feel about the mutilation of such a good Act (Nurses' Registration) and of your efforts in the General Nursing Council to keep the professional aspect uppermost. You certainly have been most shamefully treated, and those who allow this to happen surely regret it when they know, as English nurses are finding out when they come to British Columbia, Canada, that the S.R.N. will not be recognised at all until it can be presented with certificate that the applicant passed the Central Portal Examination for this certificate and came from an accredited school. In the meantime, each nurse will have to be taken as unregistered and an examination must be passed by her in order to register and become a Registered Nurse in this Province. I have burned with indignation many times since the degradation of the English Register happened."

[If a few thousands of our Registered Nurses were inspired with the fine professional feeling of our correspondent, their Register would never have been degraded by the Chaple modification—at the instigation of the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., having been thrown open to untrained exploiters of sick people, without any hospital experience at all. It is a big scandal, but the profession, now largely confined in the College compound, know little of what is done in their name by the Chairman and Council. We are entirely in sympathy with British Columbia in their decision.—ED.]

A CALAMITY TO LOSE B.J.N.

*Miss J. Melita Jones, New Zealand.*—"I am only too willing to accede to any proposition that will guarantee a continuance of the JOURNAL. It would indeed be a calamity were it discontinued. To those far from the centre of things it keeps them abreast of the times, and many valuable hints have been gratefully received and acted upon."

GOOD WISHES FROM CHINA.

*Miss G. E. Stephenson, S.R.N., China.*—"I am delighted to know that you are going to issue the B.J.N. as a monthly magazine. I'm sure it will meet with great success, and I wish for it unbounded prosperity."

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITION FOR MAY.

What is Malnutrition? Among what classes is it principally prevalent? What are the causes, and how should they be combated?

## COMING EVENTS.

*April 3rd.*—Meeting Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council. To receive Report of the Deputation to the Minister of Health on March 11th, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., 5 p.m.

*April 11th.*—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting, Ministry of Health. 2.30 p.m.

*April 23rd.*—Opening of the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley by His Majesty the King.

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