

## 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.*

## "THE VOTE COVERS ALL."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—As the Official Delegates of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland (of which you are President) to the Meeting and Congress of the International Council of Nurses (of which you are Founder) we desire to take this opportunity of expressing to you our deep regret that we had not the inspiration of your presence, and the stimulation and pleasure of your companionship, during the memorable week we recently enjoyed in Helsingfors. We further desire to express our appreciation of the reason which led you to forego the joy of seeing how the good seed sown and so carefully fostered by you, has grown to maturity and fruition, and the professional benefit, and personal pleasure which have resulted to many hundreds of nurses in all parts of the world therefrom.

We know well how you have always kept before you the organization of nurses under State authority broad-based upon the principle that the Government of the Nursing Profession should be in the hands of the Registered Nurses themselves, how you steadfastly insisted when the Bill for the State Registration of Nurses was before Parliament that the Registered Nurses should be in a majority on their Governing Body, and how, when you arrived at the conclusion that the scheme for the election of the Direct Representatives of the Nurses on that Body should provide for a free and unrestricted choice of candidates, you worked persistently to attain it.

When, therefore, in response to the petition of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council the present Minister of Health carried out the expressed intention of his predecessor in that office, and recommended to Parliament that a Select Committee of the House of Commons, should be appointed to enquire into this matter (as well as into the question of a compulsory prescribed syllabus of training) and the date fixed for its meetings coincided with that of the meeting of the International Council and Congress of Nurses in Finland, those who knew your life-long habit of devotion to duty felt certain that, as principal witness in support of the open election, you would forego the pleasure of the Helsingfors Congress, and remain at home to give evidence before the Select Committee.

We hope you had your reward when the Report of the Committee was published with the unanimous recommenda-

tion that the eleven seats for the Direct Representatives of the nurses on the General Part of the Register at the next election should be open to any registered nurse. No more important right could be conferred on Registered Nurses than this free right of choice of their Representatives, and we thank you for your self-sacrifice.

We are,

Yours loyally,

HELEN L. PEARSE, S.R.N.  
A. STEWART BRYSON, S.R.N., R.F.N.  
BEATRICE KENT, S.R.N.  
ISABEL MACDONALD, S.R.N.

Official Delegates National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, to the Meeting of the I.C.N., Helsingfors.

## THE CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I notice with deep regret that a printed card is to be substituted by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales for the beautiful engraved certificate originally issued, which I for one prize deeply. How glad I am that I was one of the first hundred to register, and that my certificate bears your honoured signature. Far from carrying it about with me I have had it framed, and it is a joy to me to look at it from time to time, not only because it is beautiful in itself but because it represents all that we fought for and eventually won in the "thirty years war."

Medical men do not carry their diplomas about with them, or need an up to date copy, and why should we? If

any person should question the veracity of our statements as to what certificates we hold we, like medical men, can refer them to our professional Register, where verification is written large, and those who run may read.

And while I am on the subject, how nearly we lost that hard won right. It seems almost incredible now that you should have had to fight so hard on the first General Nursing Council to preserve the elementary right of those of us who have certificates of training to have the fact recorded on the Register. Yet so it was. When the incident is seen in its true perspective it will be found that it is not one of the least things, and they are many, for which the Nurses on the Register for England and Wales have to thank you.

Yours faithfully,

REGISTERED NURSE.

## PRIZE COMPETITION FOR OCTOBER.

Give the cause, symptoms, treatment, and danger of "White Leg."



Miss A. Stewart Bryson, S.R.N.  
Councillor Beatrice Kent, S.R.N.  
Miss M. Huxley, R.G.N. (Foundation Member).  
Miss H. L. Pearse, S.R.N.  
Miss M. Breay, S.R.N. (Hon. Member).  
Miss Isabel Macdonald, S.R.N.

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