

I must regret the error I have made, and ask you to please accept my apologies.

Will you also publish this letter in the next JOURNAL?

I am,

Yours faithfully,

Cringleford,
St. Thomas Road,
Worthing.

E. M. NORRIS.

[Why should the Secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd., "conclude" that "E. M. Norris" is unable to read and understand the simply worded "Leaflet" announcing the splendid benefaction of £100,000 for the welfare of the Profession of which she is a member? We are of opinion that Registered Nurses should belong to any organisation they choose, and the strong pressure and prejudiced tactics being used to prevent this free choice amongst members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., is bureaucratic and reprehensible, and as obsolete as the Dodo.—ED.]

HIGHER ETHICAL STANDARDS REQUIRED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

Miss Beatrice Kent, S.R.N., has sent for publication the copy of a letter addressed by her to the Editor of the *Nursing Mirror*, and which with others in favour of the basic principles of the British College of Nurses has been suppressed.

(COPY.)

To the Editor of the "*Nursing Mirror*."

DEAR SIR,—Although as a rule it is not worth while replying to anonymous letters in the Press, as a certificated nurse of many years' standing, I wish to dissent from the following statement which appeared in your issue of May 29th, made by a correspondent under the pseudonym of "Astonished."

"British Nurses do not want a new College, no one has expressed dissatisfaction with the present College. It meets all the needs of the Nursing Profession admirably."

Your correspondent must be exceedingly ignorant if she is not aware that thousands of her colleagues disapprove of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and have never joined it for the following reasons:—

NOT A PROFESSIONAL BODY.

(1) Because it is not a professional body, the laity and the medical profession having access to its Governing Body, the Council. Moreover, four of its six Hon. Officers are male Hospital Governors, and Medical Practitioners.

BREACH OF PLEDGE.

(2) Because the College failed to keep its pledge to place its Nurse Members on the State Register, when a Nurses' Registration Act was passed "automatically and without further fee" if they paid £1 is. for Registration by the College. Thus some 20,000 guineas were taken from the Nursing Profession and the pledge never redeemed.

A CRUEL POLICY.

(3) Because of the wrecking in the House of Commons of the Nurses' Registration Bill, on the Report Stage, by political supporters of the College of Nursing, Ltd., led by Mr. Leonard Lyle, and Mr. Gerald Hurst, K.C., thus cruelly risking the deprivation of thousands of trained nurses of the benefit of Registration by the State, when opportunity at last offered for this reform, after thirty years of work, and the expenditure upon propaganda of some £30,000.

DEGRADING THE NURSES' REGISTER.

(4) Because of the support given by the College to the admission to the first State Register of nurses who might have had no training in a hospital. It urged "that the door of admission should not be closed to nurses who had *bona-fide* acted as nurses of the sick for three years before November, 1919—however such knowledge and experience may have been acquired," resulting in the Rules Modification Order secured by Dr. Chapple in the House of Commons, by

which persons in practice for three years prior to the 1st November, 1919, became eligible for registration by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, whereby thousands of untrained women were placed on the Register, thus violating an agreement—secured by Statutory Rule—made with some 30,000 nurses, that nurses placed on the General Part of the Register during the Period of Grace should have received at least one year's training in a General Hospital.

Presumably a large number of the Nurse Members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., are entirely ignorant of the facts which I have set forth. If they are *not* ignorant, then their support of such a policy proves, in my opinion, that they have no right to govern nurses with higher ethical standards.

Yours faithfully,

BEATRICE KENT, S.R.N.

344, Camden Road,
Holloway, N. 7.

May 31st, 1926.

A PROGRESSIVE CHIEF.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—If you can spare me a corner in your crowded columns I should like to explain how I came to be associated with the introduction of a specified system for the training of nurses in the Royal Infirmary of Glasgow.

On January 1st, 1891, the late Sir William Macewen in his address to the nurses of that Infirmary asked why nursing should not become a profession, with its teachers, its examiners, and its diplomas.

In the autumn of that year I was reappointed Matron. Sir William Macewen with his colleagues, viz., the Medical Staff of the Infirmary, drew up a syllabus for a three months' course of instruction to be given to the candidates (at their own expense) before being accepted as pupil nurses.

This was placed before the Managers and approved of by them.

It was my happy lot to arrange those classes, and in January, 1892, the first session was commenced. Novel as the experiment was, there was no lack of applications.

The lectures on Anatomy, Physiology, and Hygiene were given in St. Mungo's College, and by the Professors of those subjects.

On the pupils passing the examinations connected therewith, they went on to a second course of lectures given by the senior members of the medical staff of the Infirmary, a great part of these being clinical.

My part was the practical, and this was largely done by the sisters who took a certain number of pupils at fixed hours, giving them instruction in temperature and pulse taking, common tests of urine, &c., not forgetting the disagreeable parts of nursing.

The idea was not mine, but it was my privilege to help, and that was shared in by every one of the nursing staff.

Yours faithfully

REBECCA STRONG.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

H. K.—"It seems wonderful that there is to be a College of Nurses entirely for Nurses and governed by Nurses."

M. R.—"I am so pleased at the good fortune of the College, which I hope will be started to go on for all time growing always in prosperity by the zest of its members and the good fortune of its sympathisers."

A. M. S.—"Am quite ready to pay whatever is necessary for such a privilege."

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR SEPTEMBER.

What do you know of rickets, the principal causes, the means taken for its prevention and cure, and the nursing care?

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