

GOOD WISHES FROM A SOUTH AMERICAN JUNGLE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The June JOURNAL makes it clear that any "general certificated registered nurse" is permitted to apply for a foundation Fellowship (of the British College of Nurses). This I most earnestly do herewith.

I hope to be in Europe late this or early next year, meantime I feel it to be a great disadvantage to be so far from the centre of this great new movement.

Our hospital here is situated practically in the jungle, four miles up the Magdalena River, and though there is operating a modern passenger and mail aeroplane service, our chief means of transport are the river boats. So often our letters and papers are slow in coming.

Wishing you every possible success.

Yours respectfully,

Cartagena, Columbia, MARY KATHERINE COLEMAN.
South America.

"£100,000 IS A GOOD ROUND SUM."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Some time ago I received a circular in which you describe yourselves as the "British College of Nurses." You—whoever you are—appear to have had a "Vision Beautiful," you have seen yourselves as the heads of a large body of highly-trained women, who are so "youthful" and ignorant, poor things, that they know nothing of so important a matter as "ceremonial" which the "vision" has revealed to "the Trustees" of £100,000. But, truly, my dear ladies, the nurses are not quite so "youthful" that they have never heard of a "sprat to catch a mackerel." £100,000 is a "good round sum!" If it could but catch 50,000 "fellows" at £2 2s. each per annum! Ah! If you "would never sacrifice conscience" and the good of the Nursing Profession to love of personal power, why not present the £100,000 to THE College of Nursing? You would at once gain almost 30,000 members, a committee and officers chosen from the Cream of the Nursing Profession, and conditions, in every department, ten years ahead of your proposed starting point in spite of your £100,000.

But best of all you would gain the gratitude of the Nursing Profession and the belief in your sincere desire to benefit that profession, instead of the present impression, that it is your ambition to become the heads of "one of the most wealthy and influential bodies in this country."

Yours faithfully,

101, Arncliffe Terrace, C. ROBSON.
Bradford.

[We have received quite a number of letters of the above type. Might we suggest to "the Cream" the advisability of inaugurating a standard of ethics amongst the rank and file of "The College"—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

BALANCE OF POWER GOOD FOR EVERY PROFESSION.

A Matron writes:—"Would you be good enough to send me some more leaflets in connection with the British College of Nurses, I find that several of the Sisters have not had them, and others who belong to the College of Nursing have had letters advising them not to join the new College. One tries to point out to them that there is room for both organisations, and that they are not in opposition, etc. I wonder if the College of Nursing authorities realise that when they go the length of advising against the British College of Nurses that they show that they fear it will meet with success. Also they seem to forget that competition should be good for it too. In the long run, I do not think that the open letter from the College of Nursing will do any harm to the British College, it seems to have drawn the attention of nurses to the new scheme in such a way that they are enquiring into it for themselves, and that is all to the good. With all good wishes for your new scheme."

HIGHER ETHICAL STANDARDS REQUIRED.

"A Proud F.B.C.N." writes:—"The unfairness of the commercial nursing press to those of us who include in our 'higher ethical standards' a demand for professional editorial control of nursing journals is strikingly proved in Miss Beatrice Kent's most able letter sent to the *Nursing Mirror* and suppressed by that publication. Just the mean tactics employed in its anti-registration policy for a quarter of a century, and which failed so miserably, as they deserved to do. As an old registrationist my advice is, pursue the same determination about our right to better professional education and higher ethical standards as we did about registration. We shall surely win out with our College, as we did before. Our aims, unlike the commercial nursing press, are not material, so we can afford to ignore it. The close association between such journals and the College of Nursing, Ltd., and the G.N.C. has done much to depreciate our status. Now we can do much to control our own affairs, thanks to our high-minded Trustees. Dr. Bedford Fenwick's address to the first Council is priceless to those of us who realise its generosity. I thank Miss Kent for her lucid statement of facts, and feel sure she is a Foundation Fellow of the B.C.N. We want all the fearless pioneers in our ranks."

IT IS TIME WE NURSES WOKE UP.

Member, College of Nursing, writes:—"Surely Miss Kent's letter which appeared in August B.J.N. cannot be true. If it is, it is time we nurses woke up and realised how we have been deluded. Certainly no one offered to return the guinea I paid to have my name included in the State Register, and now I hear it is too late."

[As Miss Beatrice Kent proves her statements there is no question of their accuracy.—ED.]

THE POWER OF THE PEN.

Member B.C.N. writes:—"I am most grateful to Miss Beatrice Kent for her explanatory letter in reply to "Astonished" suppressed by the Editor of the *Nursing Mirror*. May I add a fifth reason why the College of Nursing, Ltd., does not meet the needs of the Nursing Profession? It is its persistent policy of presenting us in *forma pauperis* to the public, and cadging in our name from all and sundry. That demoralising Victory Ball—and subsequent scandal—begging from "Jack" and "Tommy," begging in Churches and in the street, at public dinners, and now from members of the medical profession, who have quite enough to do to support their own professional charities. I know doctors' wives and children who are in great need. The very best thing about the Great Gift is its dignity, we are treated with the utmost generosity, as silently as possible, and given the chance—which all self-respecting nurses should take—of self-government, self-help, and self-support; also we are encouraged to do our duty to our neighbours, by increasing our efficiency in civic and personal conduct. Do not let us be discouraged by ungenerous attacks, and by those who fear power in the hands of the rank and file. Never can Nursing attain public confidence until the nurses prove themselves worthy of exercising responsibility. The denial to us of reasoning faculties in the past has kept thousands of nurses the dependant and profitless women they are. We need more colleagues like Miss Kent, who can command the power of the pen, and who does not fear to sign her name to her statements."

[We withhold the name of writer of above good sense, as she is working single-handed in an unfriendly environment, and has been "warned" not to join the B.C.N.—ED.]

BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.**Important Notice.**

A Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses will be held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on Saturday, September 25th, at 5 p.m. Applicants for Fellowship and Membership who are elected on that date will be in time to receive their Diplomas at the function for that purpose to be held early in November.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR OCTOBER.

* Describe the symptoms, diet, and nursing care of a case of acute nephritis.

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