

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

THAT INSPIRED LETTER.

One who was present:—"I greatly enjoyed the ceremony at 431, Oxford Street, when Lord Ampthill attended to receive a copy of our State Register. He spoke to us so feelingly and with such warm appreciation of our work. But what I really want is a copy of that 'inspired' letter you addressed to him, which was the primary influence which defeated the Directory Bill—or as we named it at the time the 'Nurses' Enslavement Bill.' There certainly was a directing power behind that letter not made with hands—and indeed the whole struggle for our Professional status was fought for us—as well as by us—or otherwise how could we, poor and socially powerless as we were, have prevailed against wealth, rank, power and place? I agree with you that letter was inspired. With Mme. de Sévigné you could cry: "I had a good pen that day, well 'awake'!" [We have many interesting papers and letters securely put away for tabulating, if ever there is time, but as no duplicate of that special letter was made, we regret we cannot therefore send our kind correspondent a copy.—ED.]

COCKADOODLES.

Poor Law Hospital Matron writes:—"I much enjoyed last Editorial on 'Prestige.' We do need to try and attain more of it in our profession, and I agree with you that we shall never rise in public estimation so long as we are content to be 'done for' by others, however kind may be their intentions. We must stand on our own feet. See the attitude of mind of the G.N.C. towards the rank and file. That horrid 'tin-pot' badge, the beautiful Certificate already gone, and a mean little 'ticket of leave' substituted. Then the State Uniform has no real distinction, with the inevitable 'storm cap' which entirely destroys its professional appearance. If we nurses had a free hand I feel sure we should have aimed to have more 'prestige' in all these details. I am truly thankful I was one of the lucky ones to have your signature on my Certificate, which is now carefully framed, and which is mentioned in my will."

[We are always delighted to see cockadoodles, they make otherwise dull things so picturesque. Going about London one has many such treats, and one realises how much pageantry has to do with reverence. The daily "Changing of the Guard" at the Horse Guards—how the children love it. Men really looking most attractive in their cockadoodles at the King's Levee, feathers, ribbons, gold lace, robes—the outward evidence of physical and mental energy—prestige personified. Yes, we also heartily detest the third-rate, and the assumption that it is good enough for nurses.—ED.]

A REGISTERED NURSE M.P.

Matron of a Fever Hospital writes:—"When are we going to be represented in the House of Commons by a Registered Nurse? The medical profession have thirteen representatives in the present House, and unite for self-protection. They, however, do not trouble themselves about nursing affairs, so our profession is largely governed by the lay secretariat of the Ministry of Health. I have just been reading the evidence given by one of these officials before the Select Committee of the House of Commons, on the General Nursing Council autocracy. The cocksure expression of opinion concerning our educational and disciplinary affairs by this young man, is surely amazing. We ought to work to place a Registered Nurse in Parliament."

[We quite agree, such an M.P., if true to her profession, would be invaluable.—ED.]

THE FLEMING HOSPITAL COOKERY BOOK.

Mrs. Ethel Parmeter, Osborne Avenue, Newcastle-on-Tyne, writes:—"I received a copy of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. It was with great interest that I read your splendid article on the 'Fleming Hospital Cookery Book,' and I should like to thank you on behalf of myself and the ladies of my committee for the help you have undoubtedly given us by reviewing it in your paper. . . . We have already made £63 by the sales, and I have great hopes of realising £100 and more."

CHEAP NURSING FOR THE RICH.

E. Horton, Bath Street, Glasgow, writes:—"Now that the work of the Queen's Nurses is being more extolled than usual, it does not seem out of place to let it be known that their activities are not directed only to supplying the best possible nursing for the sick poor in their own homes, (B.J.N., p. 24, Feb, 1926). They supply also nursing for the sick rich at charges with which the self-supporting visiting nurse cannot compete. The worst of it is, that they are supported in this work by the doctors, who fail in loyalty to nurses in this particular. We sometimes hear an outcry against well-to-do people being nursed on charity in the public infirmaries, but it seems quite in order that the general public should know that many rich people get cheap nursing at home with the help of flag-days."

"QUITE THE BEST DESCRIPTIVE REPORT."

Miss H. Mary F. Bowman, R.N., Superintendent, Women's College Hospital, Toronto, writes:—"I am enclosing for you 7s. for the year's subscription to be sent to the Alumnae Association of the Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital. Kindly begin subscription with the October number in order that they may get the greater part of the report of the Congress of Nurses at Helsingfors, to my mind your JOURNAL has given quite the best descriptive report given in any of our nursing journals."

"I organised the Alumnae Association some years ago, and I still take a keen interest in their work, so when I was asked to give a report of the Congress after my return, I suggested the B.J.N. for its wide-spread interest in nursing matters, and now wish to make the Association a presentation of a year's subscription. With very kind regards and a deep appreciation for the joy I have received personally from reading THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, I am, &c."

[We sincerely appreciate this generous praise from Canada, of whose splendid Training Schools we have a lively recollection from past happy visits. The entire credit for our report of the Meeting of the International Council and Congress of Nurses at Helsingfors is due to Miss Margaret Breay, selfless supporter of her profession these forty years.—ED.]

NOTICES.

The Report of the Fifth Regular Meeting of the International Council of Nurses, and of the Congress held in Helsingfors in July, 1925, can be obtained from Miss C. Reimann, Secretary I.C.N., 1, Place du Lac, Geneva. Price 3s.

"The I.C.N." the Quarterly Organ of the Council can be obtained from the same address. Price 4s. per annum.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR APRIL.

Describe the nursing care of a case of lobar pneumonia. What symptoms would cause special anxiety during the course of the disease?

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