

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 PANELS AND SCROLL OF HONOUR.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM.—May I thank you very sincerely for publishing the historettes of the pioneers named on the Panels and Scroll of Honour of our Diploma. It will, I feel sure, be a real contribution to nursing knowledge, and so enable us to put into practice the acquisition of knowledge which our first Watchword puts before us as a duty.

Miss Nightingale's name and your own are, of course, known to us all, though I doubt if many of us would come out with honours in an examination on the professional careers of either, but some of those on the Scroll of Honour I am ashamed to say I know little or nothing about, and am looking forward to the May issue of our JOURNAL to enlighten my ignorance.

Mrs. Strong said on Diploma Day that it is weary work wading through volumes of history to get at a few facts. To some it may be so; for myself, I find digging into back records a keen delight. One comes across so much of interest beside the actual point for which one began the search.

I am quite sure that most of us who are Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses ought to know more about Nursing History than we do, and as we are asked to make suggestions, may I say that when the College begins to organise its activities at 39, Portland Place, I believe a course of lectures on Nursing History would be both popular and very much appreciated. We did not have one lecture upon it in the course of my three years' training, and I doubt if many of my colleagues fared any better. Thanking you for all that you are doing,

I am, Dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

F.B.C.N.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

WHAT WE THOUGHT OF DIPLOMA DAY.

From Mrs. Walter Spencer: "Your Address was perfect subject, thought, expression, delivery—all perfect."

"The four Watchwords carry inspiration and are a great ideal to live up to and to make a reality. Yesterday's meeting and presentation of Diplomas must have brought to many there a feeling of great contentment in the certainty that after so many years of struggle, combined with faith, hope, and undaunted courage, your work had now reached fulfilment. My husband joins me in congratulations."

From Miss Beatrice Kent, F.B.C.N.:—"Impressions are of different strength and quality—some are light and fugitive, others are strong and indelible, and become inlaid, so to speak, on the mind. My impressions of Diploma Day, April 29th, 1927, are of the latter type."

"From the day when I first heard of the intention of that most generous Donor to give anonymously £100,000 to found a College of Nurses, until I received my Diploma, I seem to have been only half conscious in respect of this wonderful happening! (It really *did* seem too good to be true!)"

"The great awakening came on that day, with its beautiful yet simple ceremonial."

"When the Bills for the State Registration of Trained Nurses were finally placed on the Statute Book, we thought we had reached the summit of our ambition, and seen the fruition of our highest hopes. I do not suppose that a single State Registered Nurse ever had a day or night dream of a British College governed and controlled entirely by members of their own Profession; it seemed as unlikely as that we should ever see women in Parliament!"

"Unlikely things *do* happen, blessed thought! I think the strongest impression should be this, and probably is—in the

minds of all who were privileged to take part in that historic ceremony of April 29th.—*With great privileges come great responsibilities.* The B.C.N. offers great privileges and benefits—educational, social, and economic. We must make ourselves worthy of them. We have pledged ourselves by a solemn vow to guard jealously the prestige of our College; and the Diploma further pledges us to the faithful observance of our Watchwords Knowledge, Service, Charity, Honour. All four words imply the making of ourselves fit for the service of others. *Pro bono publico.* That is the ideal of the B.C.N."

A Matron from the North writes:—"I wish to thank you again very, very much for the most enjoyable time I had in London last week at the United Nursing Services Club, and to tell you how much I appreciated being your guest at such an historic function as Diploma Day . . . I did not think for a moment I should be presented to H.R.H. Princess Arthur, and my staff are very much pleased about it. The Headquarters House is very beautiful. I know of course it is all a labour of love, and I feel it *must* be appreciated in the way it is intended, because I do think *right* will conquer . . . I hope I shall be able to inspire in the minds of my probationers the spirit of the B.C.N. . . . The Sisters and myself are all awaiting impatiently for the B.J.N."

From Miss Christina Fraser, F.B.C.N.: "Please allow me to express my grateful thanks for all the trouble you have taken on our behalf and also for the very excellent example you have set before us, I am only a tiny spot on the horizon, and there must have been many noble women present, who felt as I did cheered and elated for so grand a foundation stone laid for us on the afternoon of the 29th April. The best of good luck to you and the College."

From Miss Pauline Shekleton, Foundation Fellow:—"I feel I must write and thank you for this wonderful afternoon, so full of Love, Hope and Colour. . . . I wish we could have carried away a photograph of the platform, with the mellow light playing upon the regal and satisfying colour of the robes, and the beautifully intellectual faces of those who wore them. Feminine Art and imagination in the form of our President and Council, Masculine Science and Logic in the form of Dr. Bedford Fenwick, and Major Sir Richard Barnett, M.P."

"Love is Harmony which, in Greek, means a fitting together. It seemed symbolical that our first meeting should take place in the shadow of the Abbey, and near 'the House' where the victory was won; also that our new home in Portland Place is not so far from the statue of Lister—another link in the chain forged by Rahere."

"Freud in one of his books says that woman's love is evolution's medium; that nothing in the world breaks through all barriers in the same way, so under the New Psychology *Nurses are Universal Mothers*—the builders-up and protectors of Life—as all women were meant to be. *No other profession, outside matrimony, gives such a complete outlet for the Creative Instinct.*"

From Miss Maria Dugdale, M.B.C.N.: "Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's speech might with advantage be broadcast, it was a great privilege to be present, and a memory to be cherished."

A Scottish Fellow:—"Everything to do with Diploma Day was lovely, but the perfect organisation of the meeting at the Church House was wonderful. I was proud to belong to an institution which is officered by women who can arrange such proceedings without a hitch, and all so graciously done. Our Council made a brave show in their most becoming robes and hats—everything so dignified. The whole assembly of Fellows and Members realised the beauty and significance of the scene. I heard nothing but praise and pleasure expressed around me. We want a picture of our first Council in their robes. We owe them much for all they have accomplished in one short year."

A Scottish Fellow writes:—"I hope the President's Address on our Watchwords will be reprinted in Leaflet form so that it may be scattered broadcast. The rank and file of the Nursing Profession may appear apathetic, but I feel sure they will respond to really soul stirring inspiration—such as we all enjoyed on Diploma Day. I cannot express in words the uplift it has given me."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

We regret that we were unable to award a prize this month, no paper of sufficient merit having been received.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR JUNE.

Give a description of the various diseases connected with the Ductless Glands or endocrine organs.

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