

a small house was taken in 1855, and continued in 1856 at 57, Upper Charlotte Street, Fitzroy Square, and was called the North London Home, which was under the care of Miss Walsh, "Where nurses could be boarded, and in some measure prepared for the work before sailing for the Crimea, and received on their return home." This house was obtained for temporary use only, and housed young women who could only afford to pay 10s. 6d. per week for board and lodgings. Lending library and other advantages were given without extra charge. It was the first Hostel of its kind in London, and was probably the first institution of its kind in the world.

In 1862 saw several Hostels or Homes appear, and for years these splendid institutions have been growing, so that in nearly every town in England and in many parts of the world have the Y.W.C.A., which has earned the gratitude and admiration of millions of working women.

A. M. B.

#### ORGANISATION OF NURSING STAFFS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I notice that in your May issue, under the heading of "An Enclosed Association of L.C.C. Nurses," you were good enough to publish the terms of a letter I addressed on behalf of the London County Council Branch of my Association (the National Association of Local Government Officers) to the Clerk of the Council protesting against the semi-official methods which had recently been adopted in the formation of a "Nurses' Association" under the benevolent wing of the L.C.C. Staff Association. At the same time you refer your readers to a letter appearing under the title "The Nurse's Vote" and I should appreciate the opportunity of replying, if I may trespass upon your space, to this communication.

In the first place—although I do not think your correspondent intended to create such an impression—may I say that the National Association of Local Government Officers, which is the premier Service Organisation, representing 70,000 Professional, Technical, Administrative and Clerical Officers, is entirely independent and non-political. There is, therefore, not the slightest question of "vote catching" so far as membership of N.A.L.G.O. is concerned.

The statement that N.A.L.G.O. is "practically governed by laymen" cannot go unchallenged. The scope of our membership is so great that specialist information and guidance is easily obtained upon any matter affecting any grade of staff, professional or otherwise.

The National Association of Local Government Officers, especially in the light of the recent wave of "Economania," believes in the organisation of the whole of the professional, technical, administrative and clerical staffs in the employ of the local authorities in one great national body. No satisfactory argument against this as the most effective means of protecting standards of remuneration and conditions of service, which, after all, are the most vital matters with which every officer is concerned, have yet been advanced.

Because of the peculiar difficulty in organising staffs so widespread as these in the employ of the London County Council it has been decided to create a number of Special Service Sections, including one for Female Nursing Staffs—excluding Matrons and Assistants, for whom a separate section is to be formed. These service sections will be self-contained, with their own General Committees and Officers, and they will each have direct representation on the Executive Council of the L.C.C. Branch of the Association, thus contributing their quota of opinion to a carefully co-ordinated whole on matters of general policy affecting all grades of the Service.

There is a grave need to-day, especially in London, for

all Local Government Officers to stand shoulder-to-shoulder. Independent, professional, sectional and non-political organisation is available for the whole of the Local Authorities' Nursing Staffs in N.A.L.G.O. and whilst most cordially supporting their rights to complete freedom of action I do sincerely trust that, whatever may be their choice as individuals, they will under no circumstances be intimidated into membership of the newly-created L.C.C. organisation which you have so aptly dubbed as "Enclosed."

I am, Yours faithfully,  
THOS. M. KERSHAW,

Divisional Secretary.

National Association of Local Government Officers,  
London County Council Branch,

24, Abingdon St., Westminster, S.W.1.

[This letter is necessarily slightly abridged.—ED.]

#### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In reference to what you have aptly called the "Split Preliminary" policy of *The Lancet* Commission, in connection with the G.N.C. Examination, may I point out that strictly speaking this Examination is not what is ordinarily understood as "Preliminary" at all, inasmuch as probationers cannot enter for it until they have had at least a year's training. While usually the term implies an *Entrance* examination, an examination which the G.N.C. has not instituted, and it would be more accurate to call it "Intermediate" and not "Preliminary."

Presumably *The Lancet* Commission, when it promulgated its mischievous policy in this connection, acquainted itself with the status of this examination, though one is inclined to wonder. Would it advocate excursion of lay persons into the field of the examinations decreed requisite for medical students by medical authorities, and, if not, what adequate reason can this self-appointed Commission give for dictating to the General Nursing Council what standards it shall set for nurses in training?

Presuming, then, that *The Lancet* Commission understands what it is talking about, when it desires to force the G.N.C. to accept the findings of examiners as to the proficiency of candidates in an expert profession of which they may be as ignorant as the candidates to be examined, does the rest of the world do so? Does even the Ministry of Health do so?

I suggest to the General Nursing Council to change the name of this examination from "Preliminary" to "Intermediate" and then challenge *The Lancet* Commission or any other theorists to interfere with the work placed in their hands by the authority of Parliament.

Yours faithfully,  
STATE REGISTERED NURSE.

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#### THE HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES, 1899-1925.

Copies of the History of the International Council of Nurses, 1899-1925 (illustrated), can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1. Price 5s. post free.

#### PRIZE COMPETITION FOR JULY.

Describe the effects of Tuberculous Disease of the Spine and complications which may develop during its course. Outline the treatment.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)