

The British College of Nurses approves of Preliminary Training Schools for Probationers only so far as they are under the direction and teaching of Registered Nurses. It disapproves on principle of selection, teaching or examination of probationers by lay Head Mistresses, who in its opinion are totally unqualified to exercise such authority.

With regard to the presence of the Resolution on the Agenda for discussion at the Annual Meeting N.C.W. surely the Executive Committee uses some discretion concerning the exclusion of Resolutions—certainly all that are submitted do not appear on the final Agenda. Who eliminates them? The truth is that laywomen and persons of social influence assume a right to interfere, control and govern Registered Nurses as they have done the illiterate workers of the past, and it is time they realised that this patronage must cease. The voting at the recent meeting of the General Nursing Council on the question of the split Preliminary Examination of Nurses, proved the danger to professional efficiency and stability of this autocratic attitude upon the part of the irresponsible lay section of the Council, who have no financial responsibility whatever for the conduct of its business. Their action has aroused a bitter sense of resentment amongst Registered Nurses who demand the right to govern their own profession as provided for under the Nurses' Registration Act, which they entirely finance.—ED.]

MISS SHEPPARD'S ANNUITANTS' HOMES (For Ladies in Reduced Circumstances).

8, Queenborough Terrace,
Bayswater, London, W.2.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM.—I notice in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for December, 1933, on page 353, a very kindly and helpful column on the necessities of Miss Sheppard's Annuittants' Homes for Distressed Gentlewomen.

I can only say that it is not only appropriate but welcomely apposite, and I know well that it will be as gratefully received by my Committee as it is by me.

Believe me,

Yours truly,

CLAUD W. JACOB,
Chairman.

[The paragraph alluded to by Sir Claud W. Jacob will be found on page 353 in our December issue. Poor gentlewomen in these days need sympathetic support.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

The Futility of Special Registers.

A Registered Nurse interested in Tuberculosis Work asks for information concerning the Joint Tuberculosis Council, referred to in our last issue. "Let us hope," she writes, "that there will be no registration of any more specialists—in no branch of nursing is general knowledge more necessary as ground work than in nursing tubercular patients. Many Medical Superintendents cannot apparently realise this necessity."

[The Joint Tuberculosis Council is composed of representatives from the Ministry of Health, the Tuberculosis Association (these are mainly Medical Superintendents of Sanatoria), and the Society for Prevention of Tuberculosis. They do not, apparently, publish the results of their councils, which seems a pity, but there is an opinion growing up that they should do so. The Council have just drawn up a very good report on the use of Sanatoria beds. The report is circulated to the Medical Officer of Health in each area, and no doubt if he does not approve it gets buried. If it is in sympathy with his views, then no doubt it sees

daylight. As there is so much educational work to be done in connection with this branch of science and the medical officers on this Council are so well informed in connection with it, their reports (if published) would be invaluable. The treatment of tuberculosis has made such strides in the last ten years that authorities slow in bringing their methods up to date might be inspired to progress if information were at their disposal. Nurses can do much to spread knowledge if they avail themselves of post-graduate training in Tuberculosis Sanatoria which is now available.

The Tuberculosis Association hold a nurses' examination every May and November, two years' training for probationers, one year for post-graduates, and issue their own certificates like the late Fever Nurses' Association, which wisely ceased doing so when a State Examination for Fever Nurses was instituted—which will in time, let us hope, be included in a complete general training.

The L.C.C. pay trained Staff Nurses an extra £5 annually if they add the certificate for Tuberculosis Nursing to their general qualifications.

From what we can learn, Matrons of Tuberculosis hospitals are not in favour of the proposal to register tuberculosis nurse specialists, and in this they are wise. Our safe path of progress is to follow medical principles, and add special experience and qualifications to our General Training.—ED.]

AN AMAZING PROPOSAL.

A Sister Tutor writes: "The proposition that in the future Head Mistresses of Girls' Schools are to take the initiative in the selection and primary education and examination of probationers is an amazing proposal. Of course it means the deprivation of self-government of the Nursing Profession. This should be apparent to the simplest intelligence, and we owe a debt of gratitude to those members of the G.N.C. who appreciate the danger, and who are resisting it. But what is the great electorate of Registered Nurses who elect the sixteen direct representatives going to do to oppose it? Make themselves heard, I hope. The organizations of nurses won the Nursing Acts—it is the duty of Registered Nurses to maintain the professional privileges which they confer. I, for one, am quite ready to come out into the open and help maintain our statutory rights. Thousands of nurses will do likewise. We strongly disapprove of the unpatriotic clamour of the Teachers' Unions for the restoration of their ten per cent. salaries during our country's financial stress, which contrasts very unfavourably with the attitude of the Nursing Profession, and we protest against any control of our profession by them."

[We have received several letters on this question, and the support of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING—for years the only organ in the Press to fight for Statutory organisation of Nursing Education in Great Britain—will, of course, continue to support the policy of self-determination for the Nursing Profession.—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

We regret that no Papers have been received last month. Christmas and its manifold activities is no doubt responsible for lack of response.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR FEBRUARY.

How would you clean and sterilise the following? :—

- (a) Gum elastic or silk-webbed catheter.
- (b) Glass syringe.
- (c) Bed mackintosh.
- (d) Feeding cup.
- (e) Dressing towel.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)