

Thank you again for your sympathetic article, which I feel sure will help us greatly, especially among nurses, who will fully appreciate the necessity to rebuild and all it will mean in the relief of sickness and suffering.

Yours faithfully,

J. L. FARMER,  
Appeal Secretary.

#### TEACHERS AND THEIR SALARIES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I should be very glad if you could find a space for this letter in the *B.J.N.*, as there appears to be some misunderstanding among your correspondents regarding the teachers and their 10 per cent. cut, and I think it advisable that some information on the subject should be made known.

The teachers had no rise in salary during the war, and yet of their own will they voluntarily gave up to the War Government 5 per cent. of their salary. For this the Government gave them no thanks or recognition. At the end of the war a small bonus was returned to them—a very small one compared with what they had given.

Their first rise in salary came after the war, and in 1922, under the Burnham scale, a 5 per cent. reduction was made.

Now comes this 10 per cent., in 1931, making a total of 20 per cent. altogether. What nurse could face a reduction of one-fifth of her salary without hardship and suffering? And why take 10 per cent., when most other professions, among the men too, only had 2 per cent. deducted!

My sister is one of these teachers with a 20 per cent. reduction.

Since 1931 she has not been able to save a penny. She bears most of the burden of keeping our mother and our home. The old age pension is deducted from their cheques each month before the cheques are posted from each County Education Office, so they are provided for the future.

For the present, I could quote many instances of hardship among these hard-working women—not so much among the young teachers with no responsibility, but very much among the young and old ones who have parents and homes to keep, as so often happens.

Before criticising our sister profession why not criticise our own; why do we not demand a reduction in the high salaries and pensions of the G.N.C., knowing as we do whose money pays for these emoluments?

Faithfully yours,

Lynfield, Cowper Road, Deal, Kent. M.B.C.N. 453.

[Upon enquiry we find teachers work about 25 hours a week, and have nine weeks' holiday in the year—six in the summer, two at Christmas, one at Easter, if one is given at Whitsun, five weeks are given in the summer. All holidays are paid for.

The actual hours of teaching are 25 a week, five hours for five days. The salary is about £240 a year. It would appear therefore that the remuneration is fair considering the very short terms of work, and two days holiday weekly, although no doubt a little preparation is needed in the evening, the strain cannot in any way be compared with nursing, which necessitates constant work. The fact is the teachers, led no doubt by the men, have made such a clamour in demand of restitution of their 10 per cent., that they have aroused much antagonism in the minds of those who work much longer for smaller remuneration.—ED.]

#### KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Nurses Congratulate Dr. Helen MacMurchy.

A Correspondent writes:—"I notice in the interesting list of Canadian New Year's Honours the name of Dr. Helen

MacMurchy, which many nurses in this country will see with pleasure. Also that a leading daily paper points out that Mr. Bennett, the Canadian Prime Minister, will be more popular than ever with women, for in his list of recommendations the proportion is seven women to one man. It seems rather large. But when we turn to our own Prime Minister's list what do we find? Sixty-seven recommendations and *not one* woman amongst them. How about his popularity with women at the next General Election when he so pointedly fails to recognise their services to the State?"

#### NOTICES.

##### THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Miss M. Breay, Hon. Treasurer of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, begs to remind its Affiliated Associations that the *per capita* fees payable to the International Council of Nurses for the half year ending June 30th, became due on January 1st. She will be glad to receive them in due course for transmission to the Treasurer of the I.C.N.

She will also be glad to receive the Annual Fees due to the National Council of Nurses for the year October 1st, 1933, to September 30th, 1934, addressed to her at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1.

The constituent Associations in the National Council are usually so prompt in sending their subscriptions that the Treasurer thinks she has only to ask to receive:

##### REPORT OF DEBATE ON SPLITTING THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

The Report of the Debate on Part I of the Preliminary Examination of the General Nursing Council, which was published in full in our last issue, can be obtained in leaflet form from the Manager, British Journal of Nursing Office, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1. Price 2d. post free. Every Registered Nurse should acquaint herself with the arguments against splitting the Preliminary Examination, which would, in our opinion, result in depreciation of their control over standards of professional education.

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

Those who wish to secure copies of The History of the International Council of Nurses, 1899-1925 (illustrated), will do well to place their orders with Miss M. Breay, Hon. Treasurer, National Council of Nurses, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, as soon as possible. Price, 5s., post free.

##### "THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING" AND THE "MIDWIFE" SUPPLEMENT

Is the Official Organ of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain; The British College of Nurses; The Matrons' Council of Great Britain; The Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council, and the Registered Nurses' Association. The Official Supplement of the Royal British Nurses' Association is incorporated in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. Price 7s. annually including postage. Apply, Manager, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1. Extra copies, price 7d. each, should be ordered without delay.

##### PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR MARCH.

Describe the Symptoms of Asthma, and how it may be relieved.

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