

a letter from Miss Black, the *King's Nurse*, though this is the first professional point of view that has been allowed to appear, and it does not deal with Miss Simpson's articles. The excuse that space could not be given is absurd, when so much space has been found for the letters of ignorant laywomen."

[It is in our editorial opinion most unfair to permit an attack by novelists, however eminent, on the Nursing Profession, and to deny equal space for a reply by members of the profession, whose opinion is of value to the public, but our personal experience of half a century convinces us that the boasted freedom of our press, so far as nursing is concerned, is all balderdash. The grave injustice with which the press in this country treated the Registration of Nurses' question for 30 years, cost working women £30,000, to effect this now popular reform.—ED.]

Nurses' Leagues.

A careful reader writes: "Your interesting review of Miss MacManus's book reminded me of my training school and its unwritten regulations concerning the Nurses' League. Membership of that body was solely by the personal invitation of the Matron on completion of training. When about to leave the Hospital, graduate nurses were requested to join the Territorial Nursing Service and advised to join the College of Nursing. No one who declined to join the former was asked to become a member of the League and I do not know of any case in which a nurse not promising to join the College was admitted. Not unnaturally the League had the reputation among probationers of being composed of 'toadies.' The matter was not trivial in respect of the fact that no written testimonials were given and a 'confidential report' to a prospective employer concerning a nurse who had failed to join various bodies on completion of training was liable to prevent her from obtaining a post. Against this method of coercion there is no protection for us, and I suggest Miss MacManus's scheme—though bad—is not nearly so bad as the one I experienced."

[Long years of experience as President of the National Council of Nurses, the membership of which is composed of many of the largest Nurses' Leagues in the country, has impressed us with the wonderful unity of thought and purpose of the members, and the freedom with which they organise and govern their organisations, "Matron" usually being just "one of us." This free spirit appears to inspire the majority of League Journals—and has built up a wonderful National Council in Great Britain. We sympathise with our correspondent, as no registered nurse should be isolated from professional help and sympathy in these days. There is far too much competition for nurses to stand alone.—ED.]

Professional Recognition.

"One who pays" writes: "The attitude of the public, doctors and members of our own profession in power over us, is becoming intolerable. May I express gratitude to Miss Cochrane for urging on the G.N.C. that the names of those who pass the Final Examinations and become Registered Nurses by statutory enactment should have their professional status notified in the press as other professional persons do? Just as a matter of interest I have during the past few weeks cut out the press lists which have appeared in *The Times* in this connection. Here they are:—

"The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons candidates approved in Biology, Royal College of Surgeons Diplomas, Royal College of Surgeons, Indian Medical Service, Primary in Madras. Diplomas of Membership. Final Examinations, Diplomas in Public Health, Diplomas in Medical Radiology. Licence in Dental Surgery. Institute of Chemistry. Society of Apothecaries. Incorporated Secretaries' Association. Institute of Civil Engineers. Royal

College of Organists. Degrees conferred by Cambridge. Choral Scholarships. Naval appointments by Admiralty. Commissions in the Army, passing-out lists, Royal Military Academy, Royal Military College. School Certificate successes issued by Oxford Local Examination office, Oxford and Cambridge School Examination Board, 1,410 certificates awarded, filling two whole columns of *The Times* in small print. The Law Society Preliminary Examination. In fact, the success in Final Examinations of one profession or another which appear almost daily in the general press makes the omission of the examination of Nurses by the General Nursing Council and, I believe, the Certified Midwives by the Central Midwives Board, all the more marked. Why should these bodies persistently attempt to inculcate us with the 'inferiority complex'?

"Why should we not appeal to the Minister of Health, who is ultimately responsible for the good conduct of the provisions of the Nurses' Registration Act? If we were pensioners dependent on Treasury funds, we might hesitate to ask for State aid, but our Examinations cost us Registered Nurses £20,000 a year, and our central office another £10,000. But there we have only ourselves to blame for the invidious position to which the profession, as a whole, is apparently content to submit. People are governed as they deserve, and it is the ignorance and apathy of the average nurse which keeps our profession in its present contemptible position."

[There are now upwards of 80,000 nurses on the Register. They have only to demand to have.—ED.]

Ruddy Death on the Roads.

"All alone" writes: "The Minister of Transport's decision (we ridicule dictators in other countries, then why do we submit to them here?) that the speed limit will not apply on important by-pass and arterial roads in the London Traffic Area is an appalling Order. History repeats itself. In the Middle Ages Black Death in the gutters—in our own times Ruddy Death on the roads. Who cares? Only those of us broken by death and disaster to those we love."

Nursing of the Sick at Sea.

F.B.C.N. writes: "I was very interested in the account of the visit of the Administrative Class of our College to the *Carinthia* by Miss Stewart Bryson, and much wish I had been able to have participated in it. It made one wonder what happened on board ship when passengers or members of the crew were ill before nurses were carried to look after them. Yet it is well within my memory, and no doubt of many of your readers, when passenger ships made no such provision. I remember, too, a paper read by the Comte de Cardi at a Conference convened by the Matrons' Council years ago on the 'Nursing of the Sick at Sea,' the burden of which was similar to the classical lecture on 'Snakes in Ireland,' which began 'There are no snakes in Ireland.' In the case of nurses for the sick at sea, the lecturer pointed out the urgency for their appointment, but it was some time after that before the steamship companies took up the question, and then the conditions of appointment were such that they did not attract well-trained nurses."

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.

PRIZE COMPETITION FOR APRIL.

Describe Gastric Influenza and its nursing treatment.

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