

**MY COUNTRY.**

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above . . .  
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my Love ;  
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price ;  
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.  
And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,  
Most dear to those that love her, most great to those that  
know ;  
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,  
And her ways are ways of gentleness, and all her paths are  
peace.

SIR CECIL SPRING-RICE.

**WORD FOR THE MONTH.**

"Friendship is love without her wings."—*Byron.*

**COMING EVENTS.**

- January 19th.*—British College of Nurses. Council Meeting, 39, Portland Place, London W. 2.30 p.m.
- January 23rd.*—League of Fever Nurses. Meeting at Royal British Nurses' Association Headquarters, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W. 4.30 p.m.
- January 25th.*—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Council Meeting, 20, Portland Place, London, W. 2.30 p.m.
- February 2nd.*—Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association Meeting at Harts Sanatorium, Woodford Green. 3 p.m.

**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.*

**PRESENTATION TO MISS E. S. INNES.**

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I ask for a little space in your columns to thank all who responded to the recent appeal, and sent contributions for a presentation to Miss E. S. Innes on her retirement after holding the post of Lady Superintendent at the General Infirmary at Leeds for 21 years?

As her health is not yet completely recovered, it was impossible to arrange for a presentation to which all the subscribers could be invited, but the Committee were able to hand her a cheque for £365 3s. 4d. just before she left Leeds. This was subscribed by members of the nursing, medical and surgical staff, past and present, by members of the Board of Management, and by many others who have come in contact with Miss Innes during her long years of service in Leeds, both at the Infirmary and also as Principal Matron of the 2nd Northern General Hospital during the War. Should there be others who have not received an invitation to subscribe, but who would like to do so, Mrs. H. D. Middleton, 5, West Hill Terrace, Leeds, 7, will be glad to receive and acknowledge contributions however small. A supplementary cheque will be sent to Miss Innes before the end of January.

Yours faithfully,

J. D. E. MIDDLETON  
(on behalf of the Committee).

The General Infirmary, Leeds.

**THE OTHER POINT OF VIEW.**

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—The weekly journal, *Time and Tide*, has recently published a series of articles dealing with hospital matters. Two of these articles dealt entirely with the profession of nursing and appeared to me to be ill-

informed and misleading to the readers of that paper. In order that another point of view might be placed before the public, I sent the enclosed letter to *Time and Tide* for publication. As it was neither published nor acknowledged, I should be glad if you can find space to publish it in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

Yours sincerely,

4, Makepeace Mansions, HILARY H. RIGGALL.  
Highgate, N.6.

To the Editor, "Time and Tide."

DEAR MADAM,—I have read with interest the first article on the Nursing Profession written by Miss Helen Simpson. I feel compelled, as an informed and fully trained nurse, to protest against Miss Simpson's very retrogressive suggestions for reorganising the qualifying examinations. She suggests that a "girl" might, like a school child, be "marked week by week by the ward sister . . . instead of cramming . . . to satisfy strangers." Miss Simpson naively suggests that she foresees "all the objections to this plan." One wonders whether she has studied the history of nursing of the last sixty years. Can she be cognisant of the fact that for thirty years previous to the passing of the Nurses' Registration Acts of 1919, the most cultured, fearless and independent women in nursing were waging a ceaseless battle for professional recognition? This struggle ended in victory with the passing of the Acts in 1919.

Before the State Examinations were established as a result of those Acts, all nurses were examined, as Miss Simpson now suggests, by the individual hospitals throughout this country. There was no uniform standard of training and no central control of these examinations. A nurse was trained in a more or less haphazard way, but, provided that she could pass the examination set by her own hospital, she was sent out "a trained nurse," no matter how high or low might be the quality of her training or the status of her hospital. Educated nurses urgently felt the need for "one portal" to the profession. This was provided by the State Examination, which regularises standards and which eliminates personal favouritism by known examiners. The slackening of educational standards which Miss Simpson's article seems to suggest as desirable and the undefined qualifications she appears to favour would undoubtedly deter educated women from entering the profession.

There are more "real reasons" for the present examination system than those of which Miss Simpson, in her researches, has been made aware.

I freely admit that reforms are urgently needed, but they must be of a fundamentally progressive nature. Probably the most outstanding need to-day is for compulsory inspection of recognised training schools for nurses. By this means many unsatisfactory conditions could be adjusted.

I am, faithfully yours,

HILARY H. RIGGALL, S.R.N., F.B.C.N.

[We have pleasure in inserting this letter, and trust that our contemporary will find space to give publicity to the nurses' point of view.—ED.]

**THE CATALYTIC PERSONALITY.**

We regret that in connection with the article on the above subject published in our last issue, the signature of the writer, by a printer's error, was omitted. The author of this extremely interesting paper was Miss Hilary H. Riggall.

**PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR FEBRUARY.**

Describe in detail the nursing of a case of acute lobar pneumonia. What complications may arise and how should they be guarded against?

We regret we are unable to award a prize this month.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)