

status of our profession in the eyes of the public, but there is another and a more important aspect than that. It involves what one might express as the moral effect of the course you so strongly advocate. We hear many pious opinions expressed about the need to educate the public on the necessity for employing Registered Nurses for the care of the sick. What course could be more effective and convincing, more fruitful of practical result, than that of putting into effect the demand of the British College of Nurses for the publication of these lists in the Press? True, a small enough proportion of people might read them. That is not the main point. Apart from any close perusal of them, these lists (with their origin expressed in their headlines) would act as a continually recurring and most potent reminder that the State has put at the service of the public a Register of those it regards as qualified to nurse the sick; the consequential reflection must, as a sequel, arise in the minds of those under whose glance the published lists may fall that none but the best is good enough for the suffering and the dying.

Everyone knows the power of the Press in developing public opinion. Everyone who thinks understands how great, too, is its power to awaken or keep asleep the public conscience. There is opportunity, and therefore responsibility, within the demand placed before the Council. We gather, as already indicated, that the refusal of the latter to meet this is concerned with economics—the same old cloven hoof again, this of economics, which influenced the opposition to the establishment of the Registration Acts for decades.

But may we or may we not discern two different aspects of the economic question operative here? The first and the least important is the disbursement of the money required for the publication of the lists. The other is that the continual appearance and reappearance of these lists would inevitably increase the demand for the services of the Registered Nurses as against those of the half trained, with a resulting increase in economic stability and independence for the former class. Consciously or otherwise, fear *always* lies somewhere behind opposition to progress, and very very often the opponents themselves do not know or realise that the reason they are putting forward is not the one most potent in producing the attitude they adopt.

Be these considerations what they may, the duty of the General Nursing Council, just as much as that of the British College of Nurses or other nurses' organisations, is to use its best efforts, cost what it may, to bring to the public, in every possible way, a realisation of the existence of the State Register and what it stands for.

In the proposal put forward by you there lies, as has been said, opportunity and responsibility for the Council. But these exist for the nurses too.

In view of all that is involved it is the duty of the nurses, to the public and to the future, to press their demand until this Council or perhaps a later one, at last "lends a listening ear" to what is an entirely ethical and, in principle, a thoroughly professional demand.

Yours faithfully,
ISABEL MACDONALD, S.R.N.

THE KING'S DEFENCE OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMED RELIGION AT THE CORONATION.

To the Editor THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.
31, Norfolk Square, London, W.2.

MADAM,—I note in the very interesting article on the Coronation, June 22nd, 1911, that it is stated: "The King signifies his defence of the 'Catholic Faith' when he receives the great Orb and the Ring."

This error should surely be corrected as it is the Protestant faith that the King undertakes to protect and defend.

Hence the "Protestant Oath" which must be taken at the Ceremony.

This error is liable to give both offence and alarm to our Nonconformist brethren who already feel that the Protestant Oath is being weakened in the coming Coronation by the King's promise of protection only in Great Britain.—Yours faithfully,

JESSIE STAMFORD.
Member R.B.N.A. Also ardent reader of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

We quote below the references to the "Protestant Reformed Religion" and to the "Catholic Faith" which are included in the "Form and Order of the King's Coronation," which undoubtedly are of vital interest to the community.

THE FORM AND ORDER OF THE KING'S CORONATION. IV. THE OATH.

Then shall the Archbishop go to the King, and standing before him administer the Coronation Oath, first asking the King,

Sir, is your Majesty willing to take the Oath?

And the King answering;

I am willing.

Amongst the promises made by the King will be the following revised form referring to the Protestant Reformed Religion.

Archbishop: Will you to the utmost of your power maintain the Laws of God and the true profession of the Gospel? Will you to the utmost of your power maintain in the *United Kingdom* the Protestant Reformed Religion established by law? And will you maintain and preserve inviolably the Settlement of the Church of *England* and the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government thereof, as by law established in *England*? And will you preserve unto the Bishops and Clergy of *England* and to the Churches there committed to their charge, all such rights and privileges, as by law do or shall appertain to them, or any of them?"

THE INVESTITURE PER ANNULUM ET BACULLUM.

Then the Keeper of the Jewel House shall deliver to the Archbishop the King's Ring, in which a table jewel is enchased, the Archbishop shall put it on the fourth finger of His Majesty's right hand and say,

Receive this Ring, the ensign of kingly dignity, and of defence of the Catholic Faith; and as you are this day solemnly invested in the government of an earthly kingdom, so may you be sealed with that Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of an heavenly inheritance, and reign with Him who is the blessed and only Potentate, to whom be glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Statute of Westminster having placed the Dominions on equality with Great Britain revision in the provisions of the Oath has become necessary.

Our correspondent will realise from the above paragraph that the King signifies his defence of the "Catholic Faith" with which she appears to confuse Roman Catholicism and that no error occurred in our report of the Coronation Ceremony in 1911.—EDITOR.

NOTICE.

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PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR JUNE.

What is the distinctive feature of Jaundice? To what is it due in most cases? Mention the different varieties, and the treatment and nursing.

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