

should we be if the Medical Profession were only allowed a 48-hour week? The Nursing Profession needs to be raised, not lowered to the standard of shop assistants.

It appears to me that it is the petty regulations and lack of freedom in hospitals that irks the young "would-be nurse" of to-day, more than the actual hours of work, as all large hospitals have arranged a very reasonable schedule of off duty for everyone.

Yours faithfully,

M. CHRISTOBEL PING, S.R.N., S.C.M., M.B.C.N.

[We sympathise with Miss Ping in objecting to "masks" because, as we stated last month, if reforms are to be won, those demanding them must "face the music without disguise."

Miss Ping is, however, in error in stating that the General Nursing Council "can form regulations as regards working hours." It has no authority—under the Nurses' Act—to interfere in this economic matter, and considering that at a recent Meeting the Council deprived the Profession of the "One Portal" to the Register, a hard won privilege, we may be thankful its powers are restricted so far as liberty of service is concerned. Also why depreciate shop assistants? A most indefatigable and courteous class of women workers—indeed, many nurses have sisters in shops in highly honourable positions, and many Registered Nurses serve in chemists' shops. The hospitals have made wonderful improvements in Nursing Service and education during the past few years, but there is neither uniformity nor security under present conditions, and as "the people" are more and more demanding some measure of control of their own lives, the nursing profession owes a duty to the community to help to organise its own section of work on a just communal basis. Can this be done without legislation? We are beginning to doubt it.—ED.]

DIRECT REPRESENTATION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I have read the recent article on the Queen's Institute of District Nursing under "Nursing Echoes" in the April issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. We appreciate the kind things that are said about the work of district nurses, but there seems to be some misapprehension as to the nurse representation on the Council of the Queen's Institute. I am glad to inform you that four representatives are elected, three to the Council and one to the Midwifery and Nursing Committees of the Institute. Two represent the training of candidates for the Queen's Roll, one represents the work of County Nursing Associations, and one the training of pupil midwives. Miss MacManus is an additional nurse member. I should be very glad if this corrected information could be put in your next issue.—Yours faithfully,

MERCY WILMSHURST,
General Superintendent.

Queen's Institute of District Nursing,
57, Lower Belgrave Street, London, S.W.1.

[We are pleased to learn that several nurses are elected to the Council of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing. That is all to the good, but the gist of our criticism alluded to the desirability of the direct representation of the Royal Chartered and other Nurses' Organisations on the same terms as the representatives appointed by the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, the Royal Society of Medicine, the British College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Society of Medical Officers of Health, the County Councils Associations, the Associations of Almoners, and G.I.P.N. Secretaries Association, none of the members of which organisations are personally engaged in District Nursing.

The nursing of the sick poor in their own homes is one of the most beneficent branches of professional service—

and in our opinion the women engaged in it should have power of expression on the Council of their governing body. The following little story emphasises what we mean. At a recent meeting in support of district nursing, an emphatic person on the platform issued the following seating direction: "Ladies on the platform, nurses on the back benches of the hall!"—ED.]

FRONTIER NURSING SERVICE FOR MOTHER AND CHILD.

MY DEAR MRS. FENWICK,

In glancing over the circular No. 1, of which I sent you two copies the other day, I note a mistake in the printing. We do not require a year of district midwifery experience for our posts. We require that the applicant should have had a post, after her C.M.B., in which she got midwifery experience. This post, however, may have been a general district post that included midwifery, or she may have had the experience in a maternity hospital.

I will have some new circulars printed which express this more clearly. The point of it all is that an applicant for our remote and responsible work needs more midwifery than she has had just in her training.

I enclose a wee leaflet with further information about the Frontier Nursing Service.

Again, with my kindest and most grateful regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

MARY BRECKINRIDGE.

LE FOYER DES INFIRMIÈRES.

4, Rue Tessier, Paris-15e.

MESDAMES,

Nous vous rappelons que les Infirmières Croix-Rouge, Hospitalières-Visiteuses et bénévoles qui se sont rencontrées au cours des récents congrès Internationaux, ont exprimé le vœu de maintenir les amicales relations nées pendant ces réunions et nous souhaitons qu'Infirmières étrangères et françaises trouvent dans ces rencontres plaisir et profit.

Nous sommes donc heureuses de dire à toutes nos collègues qui viendraient à Paris pendant les vacances que notre Foyer des Infirmières de la Croix-Rouge—4 rue Tessier—Paris XVe—leur sera cordialement ouvert aux conditions suivantes :

la chambre à un lit : 18 à 24 frs. par jour.

do. do. 100 à 150 frs. par semaine.

do. do. 350 à 500 frs. par mois.

Pour la location des chambres s'adresser à Mademoiselle la Directrice du Foyer.

En vous renouvelant le plaisir que nous aurons toutes à vous retrouver et en vous disant, j'espère, à bientôt, je vous prie d'agréer l'assurance de mes dévoués et meilleurs sentiments.

HEINE FOULD.

The Editor is always much pleased to receive the kind little letters of appreciation which accompany subscriptions for the Journal, as they encourage her to maintain the policy and principles for which it stands.

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PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR JUNE.

How would you clean after use, and put away, the following: (a) Gum-elastic catheter; (b) pair of rubber gloves; (c) bed mackintosh; (d) feeder with spirit; (e) Higginson's syringe.

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