

HIGH STANDARDS OF TEACHING IN NEW ZEALAND.

Department of Health,
Parliamentary Library Buildings,
Wellington, N.Z.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Editor,
THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.
DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,

I appreciated very much indeed the kind thought that prompted you to post me a special copy of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, and by your pencil mark draw my attention to list of the New Year Honours. Without the loyal co-operation of those associated with me my work would not be successful, hence I feel it is as much to them as to myself. None the less, to think that you should have taken notice gave me a great thrill.

With very kind regards.

I remain, yours very sincerely,
JANET A. MOORE.

[Miss Janet A. Moore has been doing fine work as Nurse Instructor, Department of Health, Wellington, N.Z. In these days when it is proposed to depreciate our National Standard of Nursing efficiency, we appreciate the more the high aims of nurse instructors in the Dominions.—ED.]

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,

I hope that THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is not being put *in camera* at this critical time in our professional history. The expression was used humorously the other day by someone who related an incident which seemed to me like history repeating itself. A colleague went into a nurses' library and after looking at other papers scattered in great profusion on the table she asked for THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING to receive the amazing answer from the attendant "Oh, that one is kept locked up, but I can get it for you." It brought to mind an episode in my training school when I overheard the Matron say, in speaking of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, "I always read it and if there is anything in it that the nurses should not see I do not send it to the library." Yet we had all arrived at years of discretion if not at enlightenment. But how do people reconcile their conscience in thus fostering ignorance and using it? It amounts to an invasion of the very holy of holies of the individual in the present age—the *responsibility* of the individual to know the truth and to choose to speak out of conscience and free will.

In a crisis which may mean the wreckage of all that we have built up, I am hoping so much that the Matrons will give us a lead. We have always regarded them as educationists, often too we have idealised and loved them. Just now the feeling is that the word Matron means a mother, and how many are there who are going to use their powerful influence to help to protect us? Well, if they fail, there will still be you and the B.J.N. and well we know you will never be "The lost leader" of Browning's beautiful poem.

I enclose a small offering of gratitude to the B.J.N. I would like it used to send some extra copies to shed its light a little farther.

I am, yours faithfully,
S.R.N.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Death to Nursing as a Profession.

Fellow B.C.N. writes: "A great privilege to have been present at the Caxton Hall meeting on March 21st, in support of Nursing Standards, and to note the enthusiastic unanimity of the audience. As we were one and all advised to act to prevent the degradation of our Registration Act, may I suggest that we personally present

the Resolutions adopted to our Members of Parliament and invite their help in preventing this terrible injustice? It was a blessing to hear our case handled with emphasis and without sentimental bleating. I agree with you that should the Act be amended to include untrained and ignorant women on any Roll or Register, it means death to Nursing as a Profession."

Degradation of the State Register.

"I can hardly believe that such a proposal will receive the sanction of Parliament, a proposal which would not only undermine the status of the Nursing Profession under the Nurses' Registration Act—a tardy act of justice won after many years of hard work—but would be very detrimental to the Nation's health.—Herbert J. Paterson, C.B.E., F.R.C.S."

"I have seen how patients suffer at the hands of such people and a recent Act on 'libel' prevents anything being said.—A.M."

"Did you ever hear such a travesty of justice? The Minister, a politician said, needs more nurses in time of war. So he is to use the Registration Acts to provide the white wash for thousands of unqualified women to nurse wounded soldiers under the justification that the State (personified in him) recognises them. Was ever a more specious method adopted by politicians? Truly it is said 'Politics are dirty work,' but let us keep one profession clean and fight to the last ditch *and after*.—M. B."

"I know it means the defeat of much that was fought for by our pioneers, but the people who have reaped the benefit of that and the sacrifices do not care a scrap about it all. I wonder if they are worth struggling for.—S. R."

"I most definitely object . . . the Registration we fought for will be made null and void.—A. HOBBS (former Secretary R.B.N.A.)"

"Are the Nurses' Representatives on the General Nursing Council going to lend themselves to this without one word of protest, in other words are they on the Council to do the bidding of the Inter-Departmental Committee and the Minister of Health or to safeguard the interests of the profession?—K. H."

"It will be unfair to the sick people and unfair to the noble women who fought so hard in the past to obtain State Registration for nurses. I thank you all most warmly for the great effort you are making.—S. WILLIAMS."

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OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

It is to be regretted that no Papers were sent in reply to last month's question: "State what you know of Cancer of the Skin, Lips, Mouth and Tongue, and what treatment you have been directed to apply to ameliorate such conditions."

We hope these distressing conditions will receive some serious consideration by nurses.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR MAY.

State what you know of the causation and mode of spread of Puerperal infection and the treatment of Puerperal Pyrexia.

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