

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

An old Registrationist writes:—"It is too heart breaking after half a century of progress to contemplate all our efforts for statutory education and uplift being cast into the melting pot by a committee of interested and ignorant people who took no part in raising nursing to a profession. What can we do to stop it?" [Take courage in both hands and come out and make a determined public protest, refuse to be deprived of privileges granted in the Nurses Registration Act. Do not fail to attend the Meeting of Protest to be held at the Caxton Hall on March 21st, at 8 p.m., and bring all the nurses you know who have an ounce of spirit. We fought and won before—history must repeat itself.—ED.]

Is it Legal?

"H.B.":—"I beg to enclose a small subscription for the defence fund. I wish I could give more. I am sure all Registered nurses must feel indignant about the Grade II proposal. I could not have believed that the College of Nursing would have backed up such a scheme or inspired Miss F. Goodall's letter in *The Times*. It was very pleasant to see Mr. Paterson's letter there, too. Miss Goodall states that a probationer *may not sit* for her own hospital exams, unless she has passed the educational test. If a girl knows that she cannot hope to be on the State Register because of failure in the 'Test,' but wishes all the same to complete her training and to try for her own hospital's certificate can a matron *legally* refuse to let her do so, provided, of course, that her conduct and ward reports have been satisfactory? I *should* like to know the legal aspect of this. It seems to me so very odd that the G.N.C. should be willing to lose many *really* well-educated, well brought up girls over this 'test,' while at the same time they are ready to flood the market with untrained and semi-trained girls with no examinations whatever, probably of board school education only."

Referring to the article which appeared in the *Sunday Express* of March 5th, the Editor has received a great number of letters from all over the Kingdom in sympathy with her work for the uplift of nursing standards and the welfare of nurses of which the following are typical.

One letter addressed to her by an eminent medical practitioner reminded her that as a student he attended her wedding at St. Bartholomew-the-Less, on July 6th, 1887.

S. Neots, Home Street,
Frindsbury, Rochester.

MY DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,

I must tell you that the good news about you in the *Sunday Express* filled me with joy to know you have recovered from your long illness. I am so glad, long may you continue to flourish.

Nurses' thanks will always be yours, how you have worked for our good.

With all good wishes and thanks from

Yours sincerely,

CATHERINE E. PINE.

(Late House Sister and friend of dear Miss Isla Stewart.)

"Sunnyside,"

Milton of Campsie,

By Glasgow.

DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,

Seeing your picture and an account of your great work on behalf of nurses in the *Sunday Express* I cannot resist writing to congratulate you on still being able to carry on.

I trust you will forgive my writing in this familiar way as no doubt long ere now you have forgotten me. I was one of the three you chose and took to Windsor for an

interview with the Crown Princess of Greece to organise Greek Military hospitals on British lines.

Princess Sophie never forgot me and wired for me to go and help her in the Balkan War 1912-13. I have been out there also in the great war, invalided home in 1917 and have been more or less helpless ever since.

Wishing you all success in your present campaign in which I wish I could be of use.

Yours very truly,

J. I. MILNE SMITH.

"All the Orderlies" in this hospital who have been helping with nursing duties in this hospital more and more of late, are hoping to get on to the Roll of Assistant Nurses. We regulars don't feel inclined to swat up for two exams. with nothing to look forward to."

"We cannot get on without Assistant Nurses in our chronic wards, because Registered Nurses will not staff them, but that is no reason why 100,000 Registered Nurses should be associated with them, as they will be if the G.N.C. controls a Roll of Grade II Nurses. How would doctors like such a breach of faith?"

"It is not the duty of the Nursing Profession to organise the Nursing Schools—that is the duty of hospital managers to which they are attached. If their system has failed to meet the needs of the sick, it is the duty of the Government to organise a national system, especially if the taxpayer is to foot the bill."

"I am a professional man's very poor widow. I made great sacrifices to keep my daughter in comfort during her three years' training and am proud of her career as a Registered Nurse. Who is going to follow my example if the Governing Body of the profession is to run a quack Roll in competition with the Register? I consider the suggestion dishonest."

"Two grades! Who is going to shepherd the sheep from the goats? What is required is a safe standard of knowledge for the care of the sick. "Kindness, gentleness and quietness" are by no means the distinctive attributes of the ignorant; indeed the more accurate and skilful the individual the more modest the demeanour."

"It is to be hoped we shall have a crowded meeting at Caxton Hall, on March 21st. People are governed as they deserve, and if we do not demand justice we shall deserve the boot."

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NOTICE.

AS THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is a monthly paper the Editor will be greatly obliged if items of news which the readers desire included are sent to her as early as possible, as they often arrive just after the JOURNAL has gone to press.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR APRIL.

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.

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