

and the Bill did not make provision for this. When the Bill became a Government Measure, after the liberal education that Sir Richard Barnett had given to Members of the House of Commons on the necessity of such a measure, further opposition on the part of the College was useless.

But their adherence to the real purpose of the Act was half-hearted, for they introduced the movement that culminated in the admission of many women with less than a year's training to the State Register. However, fortunately, the years of grace were drawing to their close and this set limits to the influx of those unqualified persons. Again, with half-hearted allegiance to the purpose of the Act, that of protecting the nurses' qualifications, these "pioneers" sought to deprive the nurses, on the printed Register, of evidence of their possession of a Certificate. And now what is their next step in the direction of progress backwards? They seek to extend the compass and privileges of the Act to give the recognition, and so the approval of the State, to unlimited numbers of women of very meagre qualifications for nursing the sick. We are told that the remuneration of such will be less than that of the fully qualified nurse—just so and therein lies the danger—*undercutting from the half-qualified is the very greatest economic danger to which the nurses can be subjected.*

Well, let the Royal College of Nursing have its somewhat cheap triumph over the pioneers of the past, over the dead to whom the honour belongs of having fought long and steadfastly, carrying gaily enough oftentimes the torch of progress over the stony roads of opposition. In 1887 it was lit and others claim in the article under discussion, to have had a vision in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and seventeen! That is all to the good, but the tactics of the article are wrong for they make for confusion and wrong judgment, inducing thereby false judgments and mistaken decisions or no decisions at all.

The spirit of the words of the poet:—

"Let good go bravely through the world at last
What care through thee of me"

is quite in accordance with ethics, with personal contentment and peace of mind, too; also we have grown somewhat immune and accustomed to the "stealing of thunder," but there is another side to the matter—if you repeat a thing often enough it comes to be believed—and in the interests of history accuracy is called for. Fortunately, the whole history of the State Registration movement has been written in succeeding volumes of the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, but that reflection does not leave us free to "stand consenting" when history is misrepresented and those to whom the nurses owe so much are ignored as the actual pioneers of a great movement, and their inspiration and vision accredited to others.

I am, Madam,
Yours sincerely,

ISABEL MACDONALD, S.R.N.

CREDIT TO WHOM CREDIT IS DUE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—It is to be regretted that Sister Elizabeth Clare, in her useful table of the progress of nursing, overlooked the difference between the authorship of the first two and the last two volumes of the "History of Nursing." These final volumes, almost wholly the work of the National Committees of Nurses in the various countries forming the membership of the I.C.N., should have been credited to them. True, the names of those committees and writers stand at the heads of their chapters, yet many nurses may not have seen these books, and I am sensitive and even a little jealous for our unselfish and indispensable collabora-

tors, that their valuable and authoritative material should always be credited to its authors.

I am, yours sincerely,

LAVINIA L. DOCK.

[We commend the ethical point of view of Miss Lavinia L. Dock in this connection to the Council of the Royal College of Nursing.—ED.]

A Rude Awakening.

Sister Tutor writes: "I love my BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, it gives me to feel I am a responsible human being, and not a congenital idiot. But what are you to do with a Matron like ours? I wanted her to read this month's Editorial, but she politely refused, and added: 'It would be much better if you did not consider yourself progressive, and waste time over politics, with which nurses should have nothing to do. You can safely leave your professional interests to those in authority, the Ministry of Health, and the General Nursing Council!' I ask you?!!!"

"Am I, or am I not, an enfranchised citizen? Have I, or have I not, not only the right, but a duty, in this connection?" I asked her.

"I strongly disapprove of paying for the upkeep of G.N.C. Headquarters, if semi-trained women are to have the use of them."

"The remedy is simple," Matron replied, 'remove your name from the State Register—or pay no fee—and your membership will lapse.'

"It is incredible, but I had the last word."

"Potentates will have a rude awakening some of these days. That is a sure thing."

The Dominion Nurses have Us in Mind.

Miss Alice Torr writes from Toronto: "It has been an anxiety to meet all legitimate expenses since last July when living expenses and taxes jumped over 50 per cent. . . . We are, at least, living in safety and comfort compared to what you are all undergoing at home. It does not bear thinking about. What people are suffering over there is terrible, and it is also heart-breaking to see pictures of the ruins of the dear old places that we all loved. I do hope you will get this letter safely, so many have gone down. One can but trust the seas will be kept open. With sympathy and best wishes."

Cheese.

A Sister writes: "I know you like little stories, here is one. I was present at a sing-song of convalescent soldiers, one, a cheery boy, got up and said:

"Will Nursie say a word?"

"A little grey figure in a corner rose to her feet.

"Yes," she said, "Nursie" will. "Cheese," and don't ever let me hear the word again." Then she sat down.

"Great applause. These boys just love cheese, the supply is short, and it would appear it is a daily subject of conversation."

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THE PRIZE COMPETITION.

We much regret that no Paper of sufficient merit was received for our Prize Competition for March.

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR MAY.

How would you nurse an adult male patient who is suffering from a severe attack of mumps? Mention any points which would lead you to suspect the occurrence of complications.

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