

## NURSING LEGISLATION IN SCOTLAND.

Having received letters from Scottish nurses, objecting strongly to any form of legislation which degrades their educational and economic status, as enjoyed under the Nurses' Registration (Scotland) Act, 1919, as incorporated in the Nurses Act for England and Wales—just thrust through Parliament without due consultation with the Nurses' incorporated organisations, and, indeed, with the working Registered Nurses, we have been supplied with the following information:—

"The Government is shortly to introduce a Nurses Bill for Scotland following on the exclusion of Scotland from the Bill dealing with the nursing profession in England and Wales, brought into the House some weeks ago by Mr. Ernest Brown, Minister of Health, which was made on the representations of the Scottish Secretary of State, who stated that its proposals, even where they were suitable to Scottish conditions—and some of them were not so regarded—might meet with criticism and opposition from the Scottish nursing organisations.

"Mr. Johnston thought it advisable to accord separate treatment to Scotland and he accordingly took steps to ascertain representative opinion on the question of suggested reforms. Consultations with all the interests concerned are now proceeding with a view to settling the points of difference, and these will, it is hoped, produce an agreement which will arm the Minister with the authority to frame proposals for improving the status of nurses in Scotland, and generally regularising the profession.

"The opinion has been expressed in Scottish circles that if the assent of all parties interested, including the hospitals' governors and nursing organisations could be secured in advance, at any rate to the main lines of a scheme with these objects, Parliament would unhesitatingly endorse the legislation designed to give it statutory effect. Emphasising the desirability of prior agreement, it has been pointed out that the opportunity the Secretary of State is now providing to get a Bill through Parliament may not readily recur, and it would be a matter of some regret, if, through recalcitrant disagreement, failure to take the fullest advantage of it to promote the interests of the nursing profession had to be admitted."

### A Professional Affair.

*A Scottish Matron* writes: "I fear this Nurses Bill—a misnomer—will go through, in spite of all our efforts, and it is pretty certain to be followed by a very similar one for Scotland. With such a Labour element in the House, I suppose we must expect that support will be given to sub-standards. Very soon the Assistant Nurse will seek grading in her own group, and with such dilution as envisaged, who will blame her! It is a severe indictment on our profession that support should have come from within the ranks. Our birthright sold and not even a compensating mess of pottage!"

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### THE PRIZE COMPETITION.

We much regret no Paper of sufficient merit has been received for publication.

### PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR JUNE.

Describe the nursing care of a case of Hæmolytic Anæmia.

## WHAT TO READ.

### MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHY.

"Lessons of My Life." The Right Hon. Lord Vansittart, P.C., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., D.Litt., LL.D.

### FICTION.

- "The Just and the Unjust." James Gould Cozzens.
- "Rain On Her Face." John Paddy Carstairs.
- "The Pink Camellia." Temple Bailey.
- "The Wishing Star." Mary Douglas Warre.
- "The Devil and King John." Phillip Lindsay.
- "Phantassie." Mary Geikie.
- "Guest House." Marjorie Stewart.
- "Sigh No More." Anne Hepple.
- "England For Sale." Jane Lane.
- "Moloch." Marjorie Livingston.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

- "The Hapsburg Monarchy." A. J. P. Taylor.
- "The Verge of Wales." William T. Palmer.
- "American England." An Epitome of a Common Heritage. H. L. Gee.
- "The Mind of the Maker." Dorothy L. Sayers.
- "Educating a Nation." Addresses and Messages of Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- "How You Live When You Die." Shaw Desmond.
- "Napoleon at the Briars." Faith Compton Mackenzie.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

*Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was sorry to note your paragraph in April issue that those correspondents who were not prepared to sign their names "better remain silent," as I read *Kernels* and *Letters* with great interest. The truth is that if our names are in print we are penalised for it and cannot afford to lose our posts and livelihood. May I say one thing? It is this tyranny in hospitals which has made it possible for this terrible fate to overtake us, and to place us in the de-graded class which the passing of the Nurses' Bill makes inevitable. Taking Registered Nurses as a class, the Minister knew well that he could thrust his Bill through because the Matrons in high office who have power of promotion were on his side. The Roll of Assistant Nurses will not affect their status, salaries and pensions; they "sit on velvet." But I am pleased to learn that there is a minority amongst them who are in sympathy with the rank and file. Could we not have a list of hospitals which only admit students for a thorough and safe standard of training and then band ourselves together to resist injustice?—Yours,

POOR IN POCKET.

[We feel sure the British College of Nurses, Ltd., will watch with vigilance the procedure of this unjust Nurses Act. Some of our sympathy is with the ignorant young women who are being inveigled into institutions in total ignorance of their relative position, and who will have justice on their side when they realise they are to remain second-class semi-trained workers, if they resent it and break their contracts. There has been nothing to equal this Act of Parliament since the press-gang was in force. It has got to be repealed for England's reputation for justice, if it takes a decade to do it. We are certain, when Registered Nurses realise their de-gradation, it will be done.—ED.]

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