

"Our Humane Profession."

We are publishing the following letter from a member of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., and would like her and her colleagues to know how very much such kind letters are appreciated.

DEAR PRESIDENT,

I here enclose P.O. for 21s. in payment of my yearly fee for 1945 as member of the British College of Nurses, Ltd.

I thoroughly appreciate your great interest in our truly humane profession, and as a nurse beg to thank you for the years of labour you have devoted to this ancient of all professions.

Wishing you God-speed in the coming year,
Yours faithfully, M. C. M.

NURSING POLITICS.

THE NURSES ACT

A Royal Commission, consisting of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Brabazon, and Lord Denham, signified the Royal Assent to the Nurses Act on February 25th.

We published the text of the Act in our last issue—it was practically an amendment to the dangerously faulty Nurses Act, 1943—"confidentially" promoted by the late Minister of Health, Mr. Ernest Brown, M.P., and thrust through Parliament at lightning speed with the aid of his Parliamentary Secretary.

Let us hope this unjust Act, so far as Registered Nurses are concerned, will be further amended at an early date. There will be no peace in Nursing ranks until Regulation 19 is amended and the General Nursing Council cannot use our funds for promoting the organisation of de-grading our educational standards and professional status.

FURTHER DE-GRADING OF THE NURSING PROFESSION

When the late Minister of Health, Mr. Ernest Brown, drafted his "confidential" Nurses Bill early in 1943, he constituted the Minister of Health a veritable Pope, and all and sundry whom he considered eligible to rank as professional nurses were qualified to do so without professional knowledge or experience, and unfortunately for the State Registered Nurses, at their expense, should necessity arise.

The Nurses Act, 1943, rushed through Parliament, without really due consideration, has endowed the Minister of Health, practically, with absolute power over the decisions of the Governing Body of highly qualified professional nurses, the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, thus no professional organisation of any importance can be enforced without the consent of the Minister; he also nominates the Committee for the enrolment of untrained and semi-trained persons, so that there are to be found on the Roll of Assistant Nurses untrained persons, women with a smattering of private nursing, V.A.D.s, St. John members, and now Christian Science nurses, though not as such. We wonder what our highly skilled Registered Nurses will have to say concerning the competition of the swarm of these enrolled nurses, when they return from their patriotic duty where, at the battle front they have been serving our heroic sick and wounded for the past six years.

Christian Science Attendants.

At a meeting of Hospital Matrons held recently in London, which was addressed by the Right Hon. Henry U. Willink, K.C., M.P., Minister of Health, he was asked by a nurse present if Christian Science Nurses had been placed on the Assistant Nurses Roll. With some hesitation the Minister replied, yes, that nine of such nurses had been placed upon the Roll.

This is an amazing admission, because this sect of attendants on the sick deny the fundamental efficacy of scientific medicine, and believe alone in spiritual healing.

We intend to enter fully into this very controversial question in our next issue.

THE WAR.

Princess Elizabeth Joins A.T.S.

Princess Elizabeth has joined the A.T.S. The following official announcement was issued from Buckingham Palace recently:—

"The King has granted to Her Royal Highness the Princess Elizabeth a commission with the honorary rank of second subaltern in the Auxiliary Territorial Service. Her Royal Highness is at present attending a course at a driving training centre in the south of England."

It is understood that this step has been taken at the Princess's own request.

The Princess is to be treated in exactly the same way as any other officer learner at the driving training centre. By the King's orders she is to receive no special privileges because of her personal rank, any more than the King himself did when he served in the Royal Navy.

Princess Elizabeth is the first woman member of the Royal Family to join as a full-time active member of the women's services.

President Roosevelt Proposes Draft.

Professional Nursing can always be relied upon for the most up-to-date information concerning Nursing in the U.S.A., and from the January, 1945, issue we quote the opinion of President Roosevelt in his patriotic demand for more nurses for the American soldiers on active service:—

"One of the most urgent immediate requirements of the armed forces is more nurses. Last April the Army requirement for nurses was set at 50,000. Actual strength in nurses was then 40,000. Since that time the Army has tried to raise the additional 10,000. Active recruiting has been carried on, but the net gain in eight months has been only 2,000. There are now 42,000 nurses in the Army.

"The present shortage of Army nurses is reflected in undue strain on the existing force. More than a thousand nurses are now hospitalised, and part of this is due to overwork. The shortage is also indicated by the fact that 11 Army hospital units have been sent overseas without their complement of nurses. At Army hospitals in the United States there is only one nurse to 26 beds, instead of the recommended one to 15 beds.

"It is tragic that the gallant women who have volunteered for service as nurses should be so overworked. It is tragic that our wounded men should ever want for the best possible nursing care.

"The inability to get the needed nurses for the Army is not due to any shortage of nurses. Two hundred and eighty thousand registered nurses are now practising in this country. It has been estimated by the War Manpower Commission that 27,000 additional nurses could be made available to the armed forces without interfering too seriously with the needs of the civilian population for nurses.

"Since volunteering has not produced the number of nurses required, I urge that the Selective Service Act be amended to provide for the induction of nurses into the armed forces. The need is too pressing to await the outcome of further efforts at recruiting.

"The care and treatment given to our wounded and sick soldiers have been the best known to medical science. Those standards must be maintained at all costs. We cannot tolerate a lowering of them by failure to provide adequate nursing for the brave men who stand desperately in need of it."

(Excerpt from President Roosevelt's Message to the Congress, printed in the *New York Times*, January 7th, 1945.)

The King's Badge.

The King's Badge, which has hitherto been awarded only to eligible persons who have served since September 3rd,

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