

that the Reserve was responsible for giving definite status to unskilled women in hospitals and elsewhere.

Those Registered Nurses, who joined the Reserve, did excellent work, so also did many others.

On the other hand, many members, particularly the assistant untrained members, were a very mixed blessing. They worked in hospitals with divided loyalties—one to their Sector Matron and one to the Hospital Matron, so that the latter suffered by virtue of the former. They were, in many cases, difficult to discipline and most independent in manner. If one hospital didn't come up to expectations, they could try another, so why bother? They were a bad object lesson to striving Student Nurses, as they earned bigger money with less responsibilities, and they were quite definitely a great obstruction to recruitment of Student Nurses. Many shortsighted young Nurses in training, left the path of discipline and strived to join the ranks where less was expected by them, and more given in return.

It is now a well-known fact that very few Nurses are seeking employment through Regional Reserve Offices. Were these to close down, it would effect a great saving in public money, and those members of the Reserve would seek permanent employment in the individual hospitals, and thus the profession would become united. Once again Nurses in hospitals would owe allegiance to one authority only, and all would receive similar benefits and a great source of irritation would be gone forever. Perhaps the Minister of Health in the new Government might give a sympathetic ear to our trials, and help to reunite our sorely tried and most noble profession.

The war in Europe is over—the Reserve is no longer necessary. Why not close it down and save time, money and paper?

Yours faithfully,

A MATRON IN THE WILDERNESS.

“SO, SO, TOGETHER WE GO.”

DEAR MADAM,—Quite a group of us Registered Nurses have now made up our minds to emigrate to a Dominion where we are free, which we never shall be again in Great Britain. Personally, after ten years of the best I could give to the sick in an L.C.C. hospital, I find myself working under a foreign-born Matron-in-Chief and classed by the late Minister of Health with bogus, untrained “Faith Healers.” I do not intend to be treated with such contempt, and several of my colleagues are of the same opinion. “So, so, together we go” to Australia, colleagues from which free land tell us we shall be very welcome. Some of my friends are taking your advice and going to India where we are greatly needed to care for the sick troops.

I know you think we ought to stay at home and fight it out with the Minister; but so many of us have little but what we earn and we cannot afford to do so, especially as our Matrons do not seem to have the power to help us, now that all L.C.C. nursing organisation is done at headquarters and they cannot choose their own staff.

Yours faithfully,

A FREE SPIRIT.

[We are not surprised to receive letters as above, but, of course, our policy has always been, Stand firm and fight it out.—ED.]

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## THE MIDWIFERY.

### CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

DEAR MADAM,—I am directed to inform you that the Minister of Health has approved an amendment of section B. 4 (a) (i) of the Board's rules, as a result of which a Registered Sick Children's Nurse may be admitted to the shortened period of midwifery training extending over six consecutive calendar months for the First Certificate of the Board.

The amended rule, which will come into operation as from 15th August, 1945, reads as follows:—

... (a) (i) “if her name appears on the general or sick children's part of the Register of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, the General Nursing Council for Scotland, the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council for Northern Ireland, or the General Nursing Council for Eire, by virtue of having passed the Examination of one of those Bodies or some other Examination recognized by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and she has had at least three years' training, or any equivalent therefor which may from time to time be recognized by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, evidence, satisfactory to the Board, that she has fulfilled the following requirements.”

Yours faithfully,

L. FARRER-BROWN.  
Secretary.

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