

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.

"PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES MUST ORGANISE."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—Permit me to reply to your correspondent in the issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of November 30th.

I will take the side issues first. The teaching of boot-mending in Welfare Centres, to which such scornful allusion is made, is just one of the small matters which will help the mother in her "real duty towards her home." Those who have much experience in Infant Welfare work know how fatally boring it is to the mother if the one string of the proper feeding of infants is harped upon to the exclusion of all other subjects. The atrophied capacity for assimilating knowledge of the mother has to be coaxed and interested and invigorated if she is to profit by her attendance at the Welfare Centre.

Such classes as boot-mending, patching, cooking are useful in interesting the mother in various ways of managing and contriving, not only for the baby, but for the other children, too. It is a fairly general rule that "father" keeps the boots in condition, but with father away at the war, and the high price of boots (12s. 6d. for a pair for a boy of eleven, and then they are "through" in a fortnight!), added to the great difficulty in getting repairs done, surely it is better for mother to seize the chance of keeping the school children dry shod than that she should sit still and wait while politicians and philanthropists discuss plans for smoothing the many creases out of her very crumpled lot.

The suggestion that nurses engaged in Public Health work should hold conferences was forestalled some eighteen months ago, when the workers' section of the Association of Infant Welfare and Maternity Centres was formed. Only those who are actively engaged in Infant Welfare work are admitted to membership. Periodical Conferences are held, at which various aspects of the work are discussed; and recently the meetings have been arranged at different centres, so that those attending may be able to study methods adopted in other localities than their own.

We are naturally anxious for the co-operation of all nurses engaged in this branch of social work, and would welcome any help in extending the scope of usefulness of the organisation.

F. E. WISE,

Hon. Sec. Workers' Section A.I.W.M.C.

22, Canonbury Park North, N.1.

STUDY AND READ.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—I acknowledge with many thanks the 5s. prize which I was fortunate enough to win for the competition.

* It is with great pleasure and interest I do the competitions. After one has finished training I think it so necessary to study and read up, as one is so apt to get slack. I have taken the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING for a few years now, and wish it most heartily every success. I only hope we shall before long have State Registration, as I fear the war has not in any way helped to raise the standard of nursing in our training schools, but rather the reverse. One must hope for the best and look forward to better days in the near future.

Yours truly,

M. CULLEN.

Queen Mary's Hospital for the East End.

THE DEEP SIGHING OF THE POOR.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—It is reported in the press that the Southwark Board of Guardians recently complained to the Local Government Board of the long delays in the burial of the poor, who, through lack of hearses, had to be conveyed to the houses of their relatives in a fish cart.

A reply has just been received that the Local Government Board had been in communication with the Ministry of Labour with reference to skilled undertakers, and they understood the Ministry would consider the question of release from military service of men whose names were put before them by the Undertakers' Association. They asked that all names should be sent to Alderman J. R. Hurry, the Hon. Secretary of the association.

Yours truly,

POOR LAW SISTER.

[An appetising arrangement for those buying fish in the district!—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

Country Matron writes.—"I note Sir Arthur Stanley calls the women who have worked and paid for State Registration, the 'Insignificant Minority.' I prefer the title of 'Old Contemptible.' What say you?"

[We agree, but it does not matter a jot what we are called so long as we stick to our principles; and that we intend to do.—ED.]

We regret to hold over many letters and "Kernels."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

December 28th.—Describe the signs and symptoms of acute bronchitis in an adult. Give an account of (a) the nursing and (b) the diet required in a case during (1) the acute stage and (2) the convalescent stage. What complications may occur?

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