

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.

INSURANCE AGAINST SICKNESS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In your issue of April 1st Lester Mackenzie advertised an Insurance against sickness and accidents. I inquired into this and found that for an annual premium of £2 10s. they will pay £2 per week for total disablement, due to any accident, or disease common to both sexes—including our special bugbear, influenza—so long as incapacity exceeds one week.

In case of sickness they will pay this for twenty-six weeks, for accident fifty-two weeks.

Nurses taking infectious cases must pay a premium of £3 per annum.

It does not appear to me that the Government Insurance will be of any use to private nurses; it would not pay our lodging, let alone anything more.

If this firm can afford to issue a policy to a single nurse at the above rates it is highly probable that they would take, say, fifty nurses at a special rate.

Does anyone know of a better policy than this offered by Lester Mackenzie & Co.? If so, will they kindly let us know of it. If not, why should not we readers of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING insure in a body, that is, those of us who are not already insured; for if insured we must be, it were better to do it sensibly, and £2 per week would be very useful.

Yours very faithfully,
MEMBER R.N.S.

BACHELOR BISHOPS AND INFANTILE MORTALITY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Would you kindly permit me space to reply to Miss Martin's letter, with regard to infantile mortality and the Bishops?

I, at least, cannot commend Miss Martin for sending our Journal to these gentlemen. Does that lady really think that His Grace the Archbishop of York and the Lord Bishop of London know nothing whatever of the home lives of the people?

May I presume to say that much as many of us nurses know—or think we know—the priests of the Church, in many cases, know and care far more; moreover, these two in particular, although now high dignitaries of the Church, have been hard-working parish priests; men who have taken a very real and laborious part in trying to better the conditions of the poor, especially in the slum districts of London and elsewhere, and still do so.

Why should not the Bishops, who are truly spiritual Fathers of the people in the best sense of the word, have their views (and put them before the people) on these subjects, which are of such vital importance in the home life of the nation; and who are we that we should presume to criticise men who have a wider and fuller knowledge of human nature than is ever likely to be ours?

Miss Martin should read Dr. Heilborn's excellent article in the JOURNAL of June 24th.

I have before me Miss Harvey's article of October 28th. The justice of much that she says is apparent, nevertheless it must be allowed that much—not all—of the poverty, which is supposed to condone so much, is due to selfishness in some form. And, in spite of Miss Harvey's evident contempt, motherhood is a glory, and must ever be while we have before us the picture of the perfect Mother and the perfect home life. Motherhood has been hallowed for ever, but, nevertheless, it, with all other beautiful things, is liable to abuse, as long as this world and sin lasts.

In conclusion, I would add that our "well-paid" Bishops have many absolutely necessary expenses, not for themselves but for the carrying on of the work to which they have been called. The unselfishness of their lives is quite apparent, to one who really looks for it; and the spiritual gifts which we receive from God's priests, no matter what their position, are such that money, or even gratitude, could never, never repay?

Let us thank God for them, and for their gifts of wisdom and intuition.

Yours truly,

AMY PHIPPS.

St. George's Infirmary, E.

[We believe our correspondents feel strongly that it would be well for our Bishops to lay more public stress on the duties of fatherhood.—ED.]

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. F. T., Glasgow.—We cannot agree with your point of view. Read this professional journal weekly, and your ethical standards may improve. Self-respect and independence can only be maintained by a certain amount of self-sacrifice. You have had to accept a very low salary because your training does not qualify you for anything but sweated labour. Don't waste time, go into a good hospital, get well trained, and don't write nonsense about "live and let live." We should imagine the prospect is nearer "die and let die."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR DECEMBER.

December 23rd.—What are the causes of Transverse Presentations? Name the modes of Natural Delivery?

December 30th.—Describe the Rôle of Insects in the production of Disease?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)