

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.

A VOICE IN THE PRESS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am one of those unfortunate people unable to attend the Congress at Cologne. I hear from a friend what a splendid gathering it was, and am eagerly looking forward to the Report in our Journal. The fact that with the exception of *The Standard*, the daily press quite ignores the Trained Nurses' point of view—makes THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING quite indispensable to those of us who "aspire."

Yours gratefully,
MEMBER R. N. S.

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL EUGENIC CONGRESS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The First International Eugenic Congress has passed, but to many, I think, it will be a never-forgotten week.

To put into a sentence or two the lessons of such a Conference would be impossible, but it is perhaps permissible to isolate one thought—that the future of Eugenics depends upon Education—education of boys, of girls, of parents, of teachers, of Social Workers, and of Nurses.

Over and over again it was pointed out that necessary as legal enactments may be in some directions, yet, after all, personal influence is the strongest lever in the world, and in this field as in many another, Nurses have exceptional facilities and qualifications.

Think what is needed.

First: That children should reverently be taught the truth regarding the facts of life. Who has greater opportunity than a Nurse of impressing upon mothers that this is their duty and privilege?

Second: That the sense of parental responsibility should be deepened. Who has greater opportunity than the Nurse of tenderly pointing out that it is a terrible sin to hand on a heritage of syphilis, epilepsy and the like?

Third: That the sense of privilege of parenthood should be deepened. Who so often as the Nurse sees that sad spectacle—"unwilling motherhood" and who therefore can so well urge the necessity for self-control when parenthood is not desired or desirable and of thankful acceptance of this greatest gift of life when it is right that it should be undertaken?

I am impelled to send this letter because, to my surprise and sorrow, I found that in that great gathering, representative of State and individual

effort for the regeneration of the Race, only two bodies connected with the Nursing Profession, had sent delegates.

I earnestly hope that these utterly inadequate words of mine may at least serve to remind Nurses of the practical bearing of Eugenics upon human lives and of the opportunities which lie to their hand of doing work of incalculable value to the nation.

I am, faithfully yours,

ANNIE E. BARNES,
Central Secretary, Nurses Social Union.

(We agree with Mrs. Barnes that Trained Nurses must take an active part in all that makes for the benefit of the Race. That more Trained Nurses organisations did not take part in the deliberations of the Eugenic Congress, may be accounted for, (1) it was held the week before the great International gathering of Nurses at Cologne, (2) that societies of Nurses, such as the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, were not officially invited to take part. The Editor of this Journal and President of the N.C.N., attended the Eugenic Congress as the official delegate of the Society of Women Journalists!—Ed.)

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS

Sister C. T.—There is no central school in this country where trained nurses can procure a course of instruction in a matron's administrative duties. This branch of work is quite different to that of nursing and superintending a ward. We should advise you to try and obtain an assistant matron's post, but unless you work under a capable matron, whose office work is well organised, systematic instruction is very difficult to procure.

M. F. Manchester.—We do not think your suggestion feasible. It is no good going to the Colonies unless you are prepared for hard work.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS FOR AUGUST

August 24th.—How would you deal with severe post partum hæmorrhage in the absence of medical assistance?

August 31st.—Describe the preparation of a patient for receiving an anæsthetic. What precautions would you take before and after?

NOTICES.

A Subscription Form for THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING will be found on page xii. of our advertisement columns. The JOURNAL is the official organ in Great Britain and Ireland of the International Council of Nurses, and full reports of the Cologne meetings will be published in it.

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