

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.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of your cheque for five shillings as the prize in last week's competition.

Yours faithfully,

MÉNA M. G. BIELBY.

Hounslow.

A CATHOLIC NURSES' UNION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I should like to send a petition to the Catholic Women's League that a Nurses' Section be formed in connection with the above on similar lines to the Catholic Nurses' Association at Harrow, Manchester, and Liverpool, and shall be obliged if you will kindly insert this letter. The Catholic Women's League have branches in nearly all Catholic dioceses. These also have their local branches, so that nurses could be transferred from one place to another. Perhaps if a sufficient number of nurses vote for it the authorities of both organisations would co-operate and so form a large nurses' Guild. I am quite sure all Catholic nurses feel the need of this bond of union. Will all Catholic nurses write these words on a post card: "We approve of a Catholic Nurses' Guild or Union." Sign it, and send it to me. Several nurses can sign the same card. Please do it at once, as I want the Petition sent in early in September. Address to Miss Pettitt, City Hospital, Seacroft, Leeds.

Thanking you in anticipation,

I am, yours truly,

A. PETITT.

THE PRACTICAL BEARING OF EUGENICS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I entirely agree with Mrs. Barnes in her plea that nurses should realise the practical bearing of Eugenics upon human lives and the opportunities which lie to their hand of doing work of incalculable value to the nation.

It is not so many years ago since we, as nurses, set before ourselves as the thing most desirable of achievement the restoration of the sick to health. We know better now, and realise that a large and increasing part of our work lies in preventing the healthy from becoming sick. To secure for the ill-fed school child nourishing food, a clean body, clean clothes, and sleep in the fresh air, by giving mothers simple lessons in hygiene and quiet individual talks on management, is rendering him far greater service than to feed him with cod-liver oil, to nurse him back to semi-

health, when, through wilful or ignorant neglect—generally the latter—he has become stunted, ill-nourished and rickety. To develop in the adult that air-hunger which will inevitably lead to his migration from the slum, where in close dark and crowded tenements the germs of tuberculosis and other diseases flourish and batten upon humanity, is to cut off the supply of patients from dispensaries and hospitals for tuberculosis, and therefore gives more satisfactory results than the care of individual cases of tuberculosis when contamination has taken place. Both, of course, are necessary, but in the one case our work is for the most part palliative, in the other remedial, and it is the remedial work which is really important. And so, to go back a step further, we come to the importance of eugenics, and the claim that every child who is brought into the world has the right to be well born, of parents who realise their responsibility for his existence, who are themselves healthy, and who by clean lives and self restraint have done their best to insure that the lamp of life which they hand on to their offspring shall burn brightly and strongly.

No one has greater opportunities of inculcating such truths in all classes of society than the trained nurses of the country and as the opportunity is ours the responsibility is ours also. By all means let us equip ourselves for our chosen work by studying the subject of eugenics, which is as fascinating as it is necessary.

EUGENIST.

REPLY TO CORRESPONDENT.

Maternity Nurse.—Whey may be prepared by adding two tablespoonfuls of liquid rennet to a pint of milk warmed to a temperature of 100 deg. Fahr. This should be stirred and placed on one side to set. The curd should then be broken up with a fork, and strained through wetted muslin, which will retain the curd and allow the whey to pass through.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

FOR AUGUST.

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

FOR SEPTEMBER.

September 7th.—Describe your practice in the care and administration of medicines; your method of identifying dangerous drugs, and of distinguishing medicines to be administered to patients from lotions and poisonous solutions used for outward application, or as disinfectants.

NOTICE.

The Editor will be obliged if all business communications, such as requiring extra journals, &c., are addressed to the Manager, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING Office, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., and not to the editorial office at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)