

a doctor would be of no use to me. I was lucky enough to get a really first-class four years' trained nurse who had qualified as a midwife after that. As far as nursing went she was A 1, but, alas! she was town bred, having lived all her life in Montreal, and she did not enjoy the wood-chopping and the milking, fetching the water, and all the other things that I have to do when Fred is away; and as luck would have it he had to be away most of the time, as they were harvesting. Mrs. S., who is my nearest neighbour, would have come over, though she lives five miles away, but she had sprained her ankle."

From that extract I gather that the nurse-midwife will have to be an all-round capable kind of woman. There are plenty of capable women in England, it is quite possible that they would like the life, and if Canada wants them I hope they will be told all these details, so that women who know something of country life will be sent; for it is possible that some of our town-bred women could not milk cows, and quite possible that some of them would not want to.

Yours faithfully,

A TOWN-BRED MIDWIFE.

PREPAREDNESS FOR WAR.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Reading the letter written by Miss Dock in which she emphasises why she and others resist and oppose preparation for war, one wonders whether the writer realises the present condition of Belgium, Poland, or any of the other small countries which, because they were weak and unprepared to repel attack, have been ruthlessly overrun by the armies of Germany. Almost one would counsel Miss Dock to cross the Atlantic in order to see with her own eyes the downtrodden misery of those countries invested by enemy troops. Miss Dock writes: "We regard preparedness for war as a hot-house and cultivator for jealousy, suspicion, and hatred. Energies devoted to the preparation for war are energies taken away from the saving, wholesome, living forces of international friendship and co-operation."

No man, or woman, in their right mind can possibly welcome war. But to be prepared, to be strong enough to resist it when it threatens is surely another matter. Had England presented a bold front and immediately declared her intention of joining the Allies in July, 1914, it is even probable that Germany would have hesitated to precipitate the present bloody struggle. At any rate, had we had a large standing Army ready to pour across the Channel, the odds would have been in favour of a speedier peace than we can hope for now.

As Secretary of the I.C.N. Miss Dock is known and beloved, but her political views should be subordinated when she writes in her professional capacity for the I.C.N. Only by the utter absence of political friction can the unity of the I.C.N. be preserved. As nurses working for sick humanity we have a common aim and unity of purpose. As citizens of different countries we are bound to hold

diverse opinions in matters political. Trusting you will find space to publish this letter, I remain, madam,

Yours faithfully,

GLADYS TATHAM.

Ladbroke Grove, W.

[We agree with Miss Dock that "war is an integral part of the competitive system; it is the flower and fruit of competition, and that co-operation is the law of life and growth. That war arises from man's actions towards his brother man, his words to him, his feelings towards him. In proportion as he practises justice and regard for others, war is preventible." But so long as the semi-civilised Central Empires of Europe attempt to govern the world by a brutalised military autocracy, so long must they be resisted with military tactics until they are subdued and the world released from a monstrous tyranny. To resist one must be prepared; otherwise racial suicide must be our fate. Let us hope that the result of this appalling war may determine the nations to crush the hydra-headed devilry of militarism, and that in future reason and not brute force shall prevail; and just here the United States may help effectively. A future generation may then "love peace and ensue it."—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

November 25th.—What do you know about Venereal Disease? How would you help to stamp it out?

December 2nd.—For what conditions is blood transfusion used? Describe modern apparatus and methods.

December 9th.—Give two "practical points" making for comfort when nursing the sick, one for use in hospital wards, one in the home.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Country Matron.—Why not join the Matrons' Council? You would then feel less isolated. It is largely composed of those matrons who have not feared to "prospect" progressively, and for years have urged the duty of hospital matrons to work for higher ideals and better conditions for trained nurses. As you are near London we feel sure you would appreciate the meetings, always of a most friendly nature.

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