

"Sister," said one, "my husband will soon be well again, and they will send him back to the front. I want to go with him. How can I manage it? I would wear soldier's uniform." She sketched out the whole plan. When the soldiers went to join up, she would fall in with the battalion dressed as a soldier. If they asked her where she came from, she would say she was lost, and was looking for her regiment. "We have no children, why should I stay at home alone?"

One last picture of a German who was dying. "The man took my hand and kissed it. 'We did not want the war; it was our Emperor. Forgive us all the harm the war has done you.' Again he wept. I could have wept too."

"WOMEN WAR WORKERS" \* is a collection of accounts contributed by representative workers of the work done by women in the more important branches of war employment. It is liberally illustrated with most interesting pictures—nurses, munition workers, land workers, post-women.

Naturally, it is the paper on nursing that affords us the greatest interest. The compiler has the good sense to discriminate between the trained and untrained nursing at the French front, and the "V.A.D. Nurse" have each their separate notice. The writer of the nursing paper, while paying a tribute to the amateur French nurses, says: "It would be an injustice to our own nurses to make them spend years preparing themselves for the profession of nursing, if perfection could be obtained without systematic training." Mrs. Bedford Fenwick is alluded to as "the first nursing authority in the world." Her services for the F.F.N.C. are well known. "Knowing the value of a certificate, she was able to make a wise and careful selection of nurses." An amusing story is told of one kind French doctor who was going to be very kind to the English nurses, because they were naturally broken-hearted, as "I understand they have taken to this work of charity because they cannot get married."

"NURSING ADVENTURES" † gives an account of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry Corps, which, in the first days of the war, contrived to get out to the firing line. Things are better managed now. Apart from expressing any opinion as to the desirability of untrained nurses at the Front, we may say that though it does not differ greatly from many others, the book is brightly written, and contains pathetic anecdotes. The illustrations help to make it attractive. H. H.

#### WORD FOR THE WEEK.

Our children give themselves that we may live  
Unhurt behind the thunder of the guns.  
Is it so great a thing that we should give  
A little from our store to serve our sons?

RUDYARD KIPLING.

(Written in support of the  
King's College Hospital Fund.)

\* "Women War Workers," edited by Gilbert Sone. Harrap & Co.

† "Nursing Adventures," by a F.A.N.Y. in France. Heinemann.

#### 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.*

#### THE HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—By those nurses and midwives who have worked much amongst the poor the movement for the establishment of a Ministry of Health will be most heartily welcomed. None know better than they do the amount of ill-health uncomplainingly endured by mothers, due largely to the fact that they have never been taught the laws of health, and to the conditions under which they live and work during their expectant motherhood. How grateful most young mothers are for advice and practical help both in regard to the care of themselves and their children is also well known. It is heart-breaking to a mother who loves her child—and the mother who does not is the exception—to see it pine and fret and waste, when she knows it ought to be bonny and thriving. Nor is there much to choose between the well-to-do and the poor mothers in point of knowledge (or the want of it) only the former can purchase skilled help, the latter cannot, and does not always know how to secure it in other ways. There is a big future before a Ministry of Health, and if Lord Rhondda's scheme will save 1,000 babies a week, as he believes, I, for one, think it should not be delayed a single day. Cannot Lord Rhondda devise a beneficent tank that will just obliterate departmental obstruction?

Yours faithfully,

MATERNITY NURSE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The scheme for the working of Maternity Centres and Child Welfare Centres embodied in the paper by Miss S. M. Marsters, published in your last two issues, seems most valuable and practical. It is between the time when the midwife or monthly nurse discontinues visiting mother and baby, and that when the child comes under the supervision of the School Medical Officer that the seeds of life-long delicacy or disability, are so often sown. Schools for Mothers have done something to combat this, but they are far too few, and besides, until girls and young women learn something of the care of infants *before they become mothers*, the first-born, and often other children also, will continue to suffer. And the lamentable thing is that the mothers are so keenly anxious to learn anything that will help them to rear a healthy family that they go from one counsellor to another and try every remedy prescribed.

A SOCIAL WORKER.

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

##### QUESTION.

August 18th.—What are the chief causes of rickets? What are its prominent symptoms, and how can a district nurse aid in its prevention?

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