

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.

SAVE THE CHILDREN.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Nothing gives me more *thankful* satisfaction, when I contemplate myself in the new light of enfranchised citizen than the knowledge of what the women's vote has achieved elsewhere in the direction of raising the standard of national purity. Three examples may be quoted out of many. In the Isle of Man (where women have had the vote for about twenty-five years) a man convicted of the crime of outraging a little girl received the sentence of *ten years'* penal servitude. Compare this with the scandalously light sentences given in our courts. Acquittals, even, are not uncommon.

It is claimed for the women of the State of Idaho that they were instrumental in securing the passage of a Bill prohibiting persons of lewd life, both men and women, from voting. An inhabitant of Seattle—one of the large towns of the State of Washington—stated that the town had been "cleaned up" after the power to vote had been granted to women in 1910.

Now, you will agree with me, and so will every other woman, that the paramount duty of the enfranchised women of England is to *clean up* this vice-stricken country of ours, and make it fit for our sweet babes to be born into. The Registrar-General's vital statistics contain some staggering facts concerning the ravages of the micro-organisms of *gonococcus* and *spirochæta pallida*, causing, in so large an extent, infant blindness. We also have it on the highest authority that "the *spirochæta pallida* is found in the bodies of dead children in so large a proportion of these cases (still-births) as to warrant the conclusion that it is the cause of death in more than 50 per cent." Now, with the knowledge of these facts, we are no longer going to tolerate the maiming and murdering of infants. Venereal diseases are killing our babies in tens of thousands every year. Drastic legislation which will deal with this wickedness and provide for the punishment of the offenders is what we must insist upon. The principle must be established that a child, once conceived in the womb, has a right to be born alive and born *well*. That, however, will not be possible unless both parents are free from the taint of venereal disease. Therefore there is one way—one way only—to save the babies born in wedlock at least, and that is to enact in this country, in this—that we call euphemistically—*enlightened* century, the humane law passed by the great Spartan lawgiver, Lycurgus, forbidding the marriage of any but healthy parents. To do this, it is quite obvious that we must have women

in Parliament, and also in the Cabinet. We will not tolerate such men as approve of brothels in France—to the ruin of our young soldiers. At a meeting of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene held at Caxton Hall, March 1, Mr. Lees Smith, M.P., said he considered one of the most revolting pronouncements the House had ever heard was that of the Under Secretary for War, when he said that, human nature being as it is, he thought it was not altogether a bad thing that clean women should be provided to satisfy our troops, without the risk of disease. "These are the very troops every man of whom carries in his soldier's pay book the letter from Lord Kitchener, telling them that respect for women is one of the first duties of a soldier," said Mr. Smith. Let us strive to put into effect *moral reformation*. We women must never give ourselves any peace until we have *cleaned up* England.

BEATRICE KENT.

[We are pleased to note that Mr. Macpherson said in the House of Commons on Tuesday that it was proposed to place the *Maisons Tolérées* in France out of bounds for British troops.—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

March 30th.—Give a brief account of the symptoms and course of a case of tuberculous meningitis. Give in detail your management of such a case.

April 6th.—(a) What symptoms may be found in an infant who is suffering from congenital syphilis? (b) What symptoms may develop in a new-born infant if the mother is suffering from gonorrhœa?

We regret that we have been unable to award a prize for any of the papers sent in this week on "Bomb-Dermatitis."

OUR ADVERTISERS.

Do not omit to buy, as far as possible, everything you need from "Our Advertisers," and to recommend them to your friends. They are all first-class firms.

HOW TO HELP THE B.J.N.

1. Get new subscribers.
2. Send news and marked newspapers.
3. Secure new advertisers.
4. Read the advertisements.
5. Patronise the advertisers.
6. Tell the advertisers where you saw the advertisement.

Do not miss the inside front cover.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)