

they are, to us, rather contemptible, for we know that there is not in them a scrap of originality or imagination, so far as he is concerned. Common honesty and manliness ought to keep him from putting forward a single one of them without also mentioning the source from which he "cribbed" it. Even the College form of application for Registration is almost an exact copy of that of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

The College has been in existence now for over two years, and we are still waiting to see it inaugurate some standard of curriculum, some proposals to improve the education given to nurses in the hospital schools; to show, in fact, sufficient originality to undertake the functions of a College. There is plenty of scope for it in that direction to judge from some of our own experiences. Only the other day a number of excellent nurses were ruled out of count for a good appointment because they had been taught nothing of hospital housekeeping. I was glad, also, to note that, in your issue of 30th ult., you advocated training in first aid work as a part of the hospital curriculum. Shortly after leaving my own training school, I was asked to undertake classes on first aid on consecutive evenings for three weeks. On the principle that, if I did not know enough of the subject to teach it I ought to, I undertook the work, and taught myself during the day what I had to teach in the evening.

Another object lesson is now ready for the College in the proposed Consultative Committee of experts being formed by the Royal British Nurses' Association, to enable trained and organised nurses to give effect to their considered opinions. Had the College originated such a Committee instead of evolving a Consultative Committee of employers, it might have inspired some degree of confidence in its intentions in professional circles, instead of the keen sense of apprehension which now exists concerning its policy and methods outside the sphere of hospital control.

I am, &c.,

QUILL.

#### THE SERF CLAUSE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I don't believe a dozen nurses in the Army care a button about the "Serf Clause" and wouldn't lose the chance of the R.R.C. if they had to sign an even more drastic contract. I have spoken to several on the subject and five out of six didn't know they had signed it. They wanted to join the Reserve and nurse the soldiers, and, as one said: "We are quite worried enough without bothering about contracts."

Yours,

RETIRED ARMY SISTER.

#### THE OPEN HAND.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Thank you for publishing my last letter. I now enclose you a cutting by which you will see that, in response to an appeal for a hospital, twenty donors of £1,000 each have

come forward. Ten of these bear names of German-Jewish origin, or are firms of the same. No doubt, all these wealthy persons are now British subjects, but that does not materially alter my repugnance to accepting thousands of pounds from them during this war, although, doubtless, their wealth has all been accumulated in our Empire at our expense.

Yours truly,

A SISTER OF BRITISH DESCENT.

#### EVERY NURSE MUST ACT INDIVIDUALLY AS WELL AS COLLECTIVELY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was very glad to see your article on the advice given this month in the *Nurses' Journal*. I may say that I acted on it, and captured the promise of one member to support our Bill. I have designs on others also. Let other nurses do their bit as well.

I am, yours truly,

M.R.B.N.A.

#### NATIONAL BABY WEEK COUNCIL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Your generous help last year did our cause incalculable good. This year, in view of Germany's increased attempts to raise her birth-rate, no matter by what means, our own efforts to stem the tide of infant mortality are more than ever a vital necessity.

We are safeguarding food in large quantities to meet the nation's future needs; we must safeguard the lives of the future citizens upon whom will devolve the task of defending and strengthening the Empire with no less care. In spite of the numerous claims upon your limited space, I, therefore, beg you most earnestly to bring home to the public, through the powerful medium of the Press, the necessity of counteracting the present loss of adult life by saving infant life.

With renewed thanks for your past help,

Yours truly,

DOUGLAS SLADEN

Chairman of Press and Publicity Committee,

27A, Cavendish Square, W. 1.

[We have pleasure in publishing this letter, and regret that the notice of the meeting of the Council, on April 11th, at the Armitage Hall, Great Portland Street, W., at 3 p.m., did not reach us in time for insertion in our last issue.—ED.]

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

##### QUESTIONS.

April 20th.—Describe in detail the management of twin labour after the birth of the first child, and give reasons for all you do.

April 27th.—How would you prepare the following for the surgeon's use?—Gauze sponges, silkworm gut, gum elastic catheters, serum syringes, and rubber gloves.

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