

## 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 INVALID CHILD.

The Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM—The Manchester and Salford Invalid Children's Aid Association held a Conference in the Manchester University on July 2nd and 3rd, to consider matters relating to invalid poor children. At the evening session on July 2nd, Dr. Brown Ritchie, School Medical Officer for Manchester, paid tribute to the voluntary work, which he said had been done in a very quiet way. In these days, when a certain amount of odium has been cast on the name of Charity, by the actions of selfish and unscrupulous people who seek power to promote their own particular interests, under the cloak of this rare virtue, it is refreshing to hear of quiet work having been accomplished.

There is a boundary line beyond which true Charity never ventures, because interference is there predominant; and excellent advice was given to this Society by Dr. James Kerr, Medical Research Officer to the London County Council, Dr. A. A. Mumford, Dr. C. P. Lapage, and Dr. Brown Ritchie, which could be summed up as follows:—

I.—To instruct the Public (especially mothers) by means of pamphlets, in regard to the common dangers to health and physique; how to avoid them; and to what extent any defects already incurred may be remedied.

II.—To pass on any cases requiring treatment or investigation to the authorities responsible, and to urge the Public, if necessary, to insist on the necessary outlay for schemes approved by Parliament, which await the administration of local authorities. The assistance of charitable organisations in this administration was firmly taboed.

This advice was quite timely, as the Association has just become represented on "The Central Council for Infant and Child Welfare," which is a charity with three objects, all of which aim at promoting or increasing special administration, for child welfare which one would think unnecessary now that the Ministry of Health is an accomplished fact.

I believe Sir Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the College of Nursing, Ltd., is the Chairman of the C.C. for I.C.W., and Miss Rundle, Secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd., is its secretary; and one of its objects is, "To provide and promote a standardisation of training for Social Welfare workers in connection with motherhood, infancy, and childhood, and to raise the status and remuneration of the workers."

Public Health Nurses are of opinion that this work has already been proved to require the services of doctors and trained nurses.

Reference was made at this conference to nursery schools, which, it seems, are likely to prove a failure, but that is only what could be expected.

A deputation from the "National Union of Trained Nurses" waited upon Sir George Newman in May, 1918, claiming that the care of such young children was the sphere of Nurses under the direction of doctors. Mothers are now demonstrating their agreement with the nurses' point of view.

Yours faithfully,  
THERESA MCGRATH.

Manchester.

## KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

W.M. S.N.:—"What a relief that the Registration Bill will be solved by the Government. Whatever Bill ultimately becomes law will be due to your years of work, and the policy of the College of Nursing, Ltd., will go down to history as a petty exhibition of spite."

Lancashire Woman writes:—"Our splendid Nurses who have helped to save our warriors, may rely upon me when the next election comes round, and I promise you the Manchester 'wreckers' will hear of their cold-blooded treatment of our Nurses in depriving them of legal status after all their efforts. As for the M.R.I., not another penny will it get from me or my friends—and we have not been ungenerous in the past."

A Manchester Nurse:—"The School Nurses here have just electrified the powers that be by asking for a minimum salary of £200, rising by £10 increments to £300 with recognition of present years of service. The air is tensely still."

Certified Midwife:—"I am all for bringing the question of Venereal Diseases into the light of day; but it seems to me that there are times and seasons which are, and which are not, appropriate. I heard a distinguished physician the other day commenting on the platform on the fact that the ban of secrecy was now quite removed, and state that 'you could hardly go to a dinner party now without having the question of venereal diseases discussed in the frankest manner possible—so nice!'"

We deeply sympathise with the indignation of our numerous correspondents on the disgraceful treatment of their Registration Bill by the College representatives, and can assure them that the Bill will not be withdrawn.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.  
QUESTIONS.

July 12th.—Describe the nursing of a case after excision of the tongue.

July 19th.—How would you treat (a) an extensive superficial burn, (b) a ruptured varicose vein?

July 26th.—How would you treat (1) *asphyxia livida*, and (2) *asphyxia pallida* in the newly-born infant?

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